HLS 23RS-644 ENGROSSED

2023 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 85

BY REPRESENTATIVE TRAVIS JOHNSON

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES: Urges and requests the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study the feasibility of allowing a black bear hunting season

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to study
3	the feasibility of allowing a black bear hunting season.
4	WHEREAS, the Louisiana black bear was listed as threatened under the Endangered
5	Species Act in 1992; and
6	WHEREAS, after the Louisiana black bear was listed under the Endangered Species
7	Act, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service developed a recovery plan for the
8	subspecies, including at least two viable subpopulations, one each in the Tensas and
9	Atchafalaya river basins, immigration and emigration corridors between the two
10	subpopulations, and protection of habitat and corridors that support the two subpopulations;
11	and
12	WHEREAS, to meet the recovery criteria and reduce threats to the Louisiana black
13	bear, state and federal agencies, universities, nongovernmental organizations, and private
14	landowners partnered in conducting numerous research and habitat restoration projects and
15	in implementing regulations; and
16	WHEREAS, the LDWF, in coordination with the United States Fish and Wildlife
17	Service and the United States Geological Survey, developed a database that is used to track
18	bear occurrences, captures, and mortalities to better understand subpopulations; and
19	WHEREAS, because of these projects and regulations, the Louisiana black bear
20	population is now considered viable over the next one hundred years with sufficient
21	protected habitat to support breeding and exchange between subpopulations; and

1 WHEREAS, black bears remain protected by state laws, which currently do not allow 2 hunting of these animals; and 3 WHEREAS, the LDWF continues to conduct research to monitor demographic and 4 genetic characteristics of the individual subpopulations of the Louisiana black bear; and 5 WHEREAS, as the state wildlife management agency, the LDWF has the 6 responsibility to ensure Louisiana black bear populations live on into the future; and 7 WHEREAS, the LDWF has released a management plan that creates a framework 8 from which the LDWF and stakeholders can work to maintain a sustainable Louisiana black 9 bear population within the state and ensure the subspecies remains a valued part of the state's 10 wildlife community; and 11 WHEREAS, the LDWF has a responsibility to manage human and bear conflicts, and 12 promote research and education related to these issues. 13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 14 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study the feasibility 15 of allowing a black bear hunting season. 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and 17 Fisheries shall provide a written report of its findings and conclusions to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural 18 19 Resources by February 1, 2024. 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. 21

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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2023 Regular Session

Travis Johnson

Urges and requests the La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to study the feasibility of allowing a black bear hunting season. Requires a written report to be completed by the department and submitted to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources by Feb. 1, 2024.