

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 854

BY REPRESENTATIVE GEYMANN

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES: Provides for exemption to wildlife rehabilitation program rules

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 56:125.1, relative to wildlife possession; to provide for an exemption to
3 Wildlife Rehabilitation Program rules for possession of wildlife; to provide for strict
4 liability of anybody in possession of certain animal species that cause damages to a
5 person or property; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 56:125.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §125.1. Wildlife Rehabilitation Program; exemption

9 Individuals may possess in captivity any sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife
10 if they have satisfied the course requirements of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Program,
11 as provided for in LAC 76:V.131(D)(3), and a licensed veterinarian has determined
12 that the animal is medically nonreleasable or exhibits signs of adjusted life in
13 captivity and poses minimum zoonotic potential. Wildlife included under this
14 exemption shall be limited to the following species: (1) squirrel, (2) skunk, (3)
15 opossum, (4) raccoon, (5) rabbit, or (6) chipmunk, with such possession limited to
16 one animal per individual. Individuals in possession of one of these animals shall
17 be held strictly liable for any damages for injuries to persons or property caused by
18 the animal.

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)]

HB 854 Original

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Geymann

Abstract: Provides for exemption to Wildlife Rehabilitation Program rules.

Proposed law adds an exemption to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Program rules regarding possession of wildlife. Proposed law provides that individuals may possess in captivity any sick, injured or orphaned wildlife if they have satisfied the course requirements of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Program, as provided by administrative rule, and a licensed veterinarian has determined that the animal is medically non-releasable or exhibits signs of adjusted life in captivity and poses minimum zoonotic potential. Proposed law specifies that wildlife included under this exemption shall be limited to the following species: (1) squirrel, (2) skunk, (3) opossum, (4) raccoon, (5) rabbit, or (6) chipmunk, with such possession limited to one animal per individual. Proposed law provides for strict liability for individuals in possession of one of these animals if they cause any damages to persons or property.

(Adds R.S. 56:125.1)