

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 83

BY REPRESENTATIVE MACK

HUNTING: Urges and requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to authorize increased hunting opportunities of feral hogs on Wildlife Management Areas

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to increase the opportunities to take feral hogs from wildlife management areas and to make any recommendations to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission necessary to accomplish that goal.

WHEREAS, feral hogs (*Sus scrofa*), including European wild hogs and hybrids, commonly weigh two hundred pounds but can easily weigh up to four hundred pounds and are quickly becoming the most serious problem facing land managers and hunters in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, feral hogs are omnivorous but vegetation constitutes the largest portion of their diet as they use their very tough nose that allows them to "root" for invertebrates, tubers, or any other underground food, thereby disrupting crops, golf courses, levees, hayfields, tree farms, and even lawns; and

WHEREAS, feral hogs are extremely prolific with generally two litters per year of up to ten piglets per litter; while the feral hogs have virtually no natural predators, so piglet survival is nearly one hundred percent which allows the population to increase exponentially; and

WHEREAS, feral hogs are plagued by a multitude of diseases that can affect humans, commercial swine operations, or wildlife, including swine brucellosis, pseudorabies, and classical swine fever; and

1           WHEREAS, with their high proliferation and lack of natural predators, management  
2 of feral hogs is of paramount importance to the state and the hunters and farmers of the state;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission establishes,  
5 maintains, and manages wildlife management areas and is charged with establishing all rules  
6 and regulations pertaining to the propagation, protection, and harvest of all species of  
7 wildlife on wildlife management areas; and

8           WHEREAS, many owners of farm and hunting land are using the tools created by  
9 recent changes to hunting laws aimed at reducing feral hog infestations, including taking  
10 feral hogs any day of the year, on certain nights of the year, with firearms equipped with  
11 sounds suppressers, and by aircraft; and

12           WHEREAS, these landowners' efforts have been stymied by the refuge for feral hogs  
13 created on wildlife management areas due to decreased hunting pressure as feral hogs can  
14 only be taken on wildlife management areas on days during an open hunting season with the  
15 method of take for that particular open season.

16           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
17 urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to increase the opportunities to  
18 take feral hogs from wildlife management areas and to make any recommendations to the  
19 Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission necessary to accomplish that goal.

20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
21 to the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

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#### 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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HCR 83 Reengrossed

2018 Regular Session

Mack

Urges and requests the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to increase the opportunities to take feral hogs from wildlife management areas and to make any recommendations to the La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission necessary to accomplish that goal.