

Regular Session, 2012  
HOUSE BILL NO. 643

# ACT No. 131

BY REPRESENTATIVE MONTOUCET

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:279(A), (B)(1), and (C)(1), relative to the Louisiana Alligator  
3 Resource Fund; to change the recipient of certain monies from the fur and refuge  
4 division to the office of wildlife; to provide for revenue to the fund; and to provide  
5 for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 56:279(A), (B)(1), and (C)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted to  
8 read as follows:

9 §279. Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund

10 A. Recognizing that the Louisiana alligator industry is a vital aspect of  
11 Louisiana's economic base and that in recent years worldwide markets and prices  
12 have expanded at a tremendous rate; and recognizing the rapid expansion of  
13 Louisiana alligator farming industry statewide; and recognizing the uniqueness of  
14 the state's alligator farming industry, one state agency, the Louisiana Department of  
15 Wildlife and Fisheries, has provided the impetus for inception and development of  
16 the total alligator conservation program; and recognizing the many beneficial  
17 influences that Louisiana's alligator program has had on crocodylian conservation  
18 worldwide; and recognizing world trends questioning the consumptive utilization of  
19 wildlife species, and recognizing that those trends, by adversely affecting economic  
20 conditions, could have a severe impact on the alligator industry; and recognizing that  
21 raw and finished alligator skins and products are largely consumed outside the  
22 United States; and recognizing the need to educate the public concerning alligator  
23 hunting as a sound wildlife management practice; and recognizing the urgent need  
24 to support the alligator industry with a comprehensive research and development

1 program; and recognizing the need to staff and fund the Louisiana Department of  
 2 Wildlife and Fisheries with adequate personnel in order to service this industry's  
 3 needs, the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish the Louisiana Alligator  
 4 Resource Fund within the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Fund. The  
 5 Alligator Resource Fund is intended to help defray the cost of alligator programs  
 6 within the ~~fur and refuge division~~ office of wildlife of the Louisiana Department of  
 7 Wildlife and Fisheries.

8 B. The specific goals of this Section are:

9 (1) To provide salaries and financial support including associated indirect  
 10 cost for the following positions, to provide a minimum of two full-time technical  
 11 positions (biologists) and eight nontechnical positions such as computer operators,  
 12 secretaries, and wildlife specialists existing within the ~~fur and refuge division~~ office  
 13 of wildlife of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

14 \* \* \*

15 C.(1) ~~All~~ Except as otherwise provided by law, all revenues received by the  
 16 state from the sale of licenses as provided in R.S. 56:251(A)(2), from tag fees  
 17 imposed on alligator hunters, alligator farmers, alligator shipping label fees on the  
 18 sale of alligators, ~~and all revenues derived from~~ the sale of alligators, alligator skins,  
 19 or alligator eggs harvested from department-administered lands, all fees derived from  
 20 alligator lottery harvest programs on department-administered lands and public  
 21 waters, and all revenues derived from any other alligator-related fees and from the  
 22 severance tax on alligator skins provided for in R.S. 56:256 shall be credited by the  
 23 state treasurer to a special fund designated as the "Louisiana Alligator Resource  
 24 Fund" after those revenues have been deposited in the Bond Security and  
 25 Redemption Fund. Out of the funds remaining in the Bond Security and Redemption  
 26 Fund after a sufficient amount is allocated from that fund to pay all obligations  
 27 secured by the full faith and credit of the state that become due and payable within  
 28 each fiscal year, the treasurer, prior to placing such funds in the state general fund,  
 29 shall pay into the Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund an amount equal to the

1 revenues generated from collection from those sources provided for in this Section  
2 and other sources as provided by law.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_