HLS 19RS-2627 ORIGINAL

2019 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 95

BY REPRESENTATIVE BISHOP

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES DEP: Creates the "Cervid (Deer)/Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force" in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To create the "Cervid (Deer)/Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force" in the Department of
3	Wildlife and Fisheries.
4	WHEREAS, chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a neurodegenerative disease found
5	in most deer species (cervids), including but not limited to white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk,
6	red deer, moose, and caribou; and
7	WHEREAS, CWD is infectious, causes irreversible damage to brain tissue, is similar
8	to mad cow disease in cattle, is always fatal to the cervid, and there is no treatment; and
9	WHEREAS, CWD has not yet been found in Louisiana, but has been documented
0	in deer in Texas, Arkansas, and Mississippi; and
1	WHEREAS, Louisiana has already adopted certain management policies to contain
12	the spread of CWD if it is found in Louisiana, with such policies including the establishment
13	of a management zone within which there will be feeding and baiting restrictions,
4	restrictions on the movement of deer body parts, and testing any deer harvested from within
15	the management zone for CWD, but there may be other management techniques that should
16	be evaluated, while knowing that such policies must be responsive and adaptive to situations
17	as they arise; and
18	WHEREAS, in addition the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has adopted a rule
9	prohibiting the importation, transportation, or possession of any cervid carcass or parts of
20	a cervid carcass, with certain exemptions for cleaned parts with no part of the spinal column
21	or the head attached, or taxidermy mounts; and

1	WHEREAS, the introduction of CWD into Louisiana could potentially be devastating
2	to the deer hunting and breeding communities in the state and the businesses that support
3	those activities, so all efforts to prevent the introduction of the disease into Louisiana should
4	be investigated; and
5	WHEREAS, a task force of experienced and interested parties could function in an
6	advisory manner to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Department of Agriculture
7	and Forestry, and the legislature as policies for management and prevention of CWD in
8	Louisiana are discussed, recommended, and developed.
9	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
10	create the "Cervid (Deer)/Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force" in the Department of
11	Wildlife and Fisheries as follows:
12	A. There is hereby established the Cervid (Deer)/Chronic Wasting Disease
13	Task Force to study and monitor cervids and chronic wasting disease issues in the
14	state of Louisiana and to make recommendations regarding the management of
15	cervids and chronic wasting disease issues in the state.
16	B. The task force shall be composed as follows:
17	(1) The deer program leader from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.
18	(2) The state wildlife veterinarian from the Department of Wildlife and
19	Fisheries.
20	(3) The state veterinarian or the assistant state veterinarian from the
21	Department of Agriculture and Forestry.
22	(4) The assistant commissioner for the office of animal health and food
23	safety of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry.
24	(5) A representative from the Louisiana State University AgCenter's Bob R.
25	Jones Wildlife Research Institute appointed by the dean of the center.
26	(6) A large animal veterinarian with cervid experience from the Louisiana
27	State University School of Veterinary Medicine appointed by the dean of the school.
28	(7) A representative from the Quality Deer Management Association.
29	(8) A representative from the Louisiana Landowners Association.
30	(9) A representative from the Whitetails of Louisiana.

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1 C. The members appointed pursuant to the provisions of Paragraphs (B)(1) 2 through (6) of this Section shall be nonvoting members. However, they shall be 3 considered members of the task force for determination of the number of members 4 necessary for a quorum and for establishing the presence of a quorum. 5 D. Five members of the task force shall constitute a quorum sufficient to 6 conduct meetings of the task force. The task force shall elect a chairman from its 7 membership. If the chairman is a representative of a state agency, the chair may vote 8 in the case of a tie. The task force may seek and receive assistance from universities 9 within the state in the development of methods to manage and prevent chronic 10 wasting disease in the cervids of the state of Louisiana. The members of the task 11 force shall serve without compensation; however, the task force members 12 representing state agencies may receive the same reimbursement of travel expenses 13 for attending task force meetings as is allowed for other state employees' travel. 14 E. The task force is hereby charged with the responsibility to make 15 recommendations with respect to issues pertaining to management and prevention 16 of chronic wasting disease in cervids, including public awareness programs, to the 17 various state agencies charged with the responsibility for managing the cervids in this state, including the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Department of 18 19 Agriculture and Forestry, and the legislature. The task force shall seek the best 20 available science, consider hunter- and manager-based solutions, and gather input 21 from various stakeholder groups. 22 F. The Cervid (Deer)/Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force shall submit an 23 annual report to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and 24 the Senate Committee on Natural Resources no later than February 1 of each year. 25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the 26 secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the commissioner of the Department

of Agriculture and Forestry, the vice president of the LSU AgCenter, the dean of the LSU

School of Veterinary Medicine, the Quality Deer Management Association, the Louisiana

Landowners Association, and the Whitetails of Louisiana.

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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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Bishop

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