

SENATE BILL NO. 483

BY SENATORS MCPHERSON, ADLEY, ALARIO, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, CHABERT, CHAISSON, CHEEK, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY, DUPLESSIS, ERDEY, B. GAUTREAUX, N. GAUTREAUX, HEBERT, HEITMEIER, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARIONNEAUX, MARTINY, MICHOT, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PETERSON, QUINN, RISER, SHAW, SMITH, THOMPSON AND WALSWORTH

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 56:110.1, relative to the Quality Deer Management Program; to create the
3 Quality Deer Management Program; to provide for the management of the program;
4 to provide for the powers and duties of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; to
5 provide for eligibility requirements; to provide terms and conditions; and to provide
6 for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 56:110.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 **§110.1. Quality Deer Management Program**

10 **A. The department shall have authority over the Quality Deer**
11 **Management Program ("program"), and shall formulate additional guidelines**
12 **according to property-specific objectives, goals, and limitations.**

13 **B. The program shall be developed using a management philosophy that**
14 **encourages good stewardship and unites landowners, hunters, and managers in**
15 **a common goal of producing biologically and socially balanced deer herds**
16 **within existing environmental, social, and legal constraints. The program shall**
17 **include protocols for the protection of young bucks, including an adequate**
18 **harvest of female deer to maintain a healthy population in balance with existing**
19 **habitat conditions and landowner desires. The program shall also promote the**
20 **production of quality deer, quality habitat, and quality deer hunting**
21 **experiences.**

22 **C. The department shall use its resources to do the following:**

23 **(1) Instruct and train qualified personnel as to the policies and**
24 **procedures for administering the program.**

1 (2) Supply landowners, hunting clubs, and cooperating agencies with
2 pertinent brochures, handouts, and other information containing management
3 techniques and applications.

4 (3) Properly prepare and suggest wildlife management
5 recommendations.

6 (4) Develop and maintain a close working relationship with other state
7 and federal agencies or non-governmental organizations that have similar or
8 corresponding programs directly or indirectly affecting public and private land
9 development and management.

10 (5) Provide incentives to encourage landowners and hunting clubs to
11 participate in the program.

12 D. The program shall be voluntary, and landowners or hunting clubs
13 who participate in the Quality Deer Management Assistance Program are
14 eligible to participate in this program. Qualification for participation in this
15 program shall be determined by rules and regulations promulgated by the
16 commission, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____