HLS 19RS-625 ORIGINAL

2019 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 65

BY REPRESENTATIVE BISHOP

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES: Urges and requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to work with the Department of Education and the Louisiana School Boards Association to provide hunter education as a voluntary physical education elective in public high schools

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to work with the Department
3	of Education and the Louisiana School Boards Association to provide firearm and
4	hunter education as a voluntary physical education elective in public high schools.
5	WHEREAS, Louisiana law requires a person born after September 1, 1969, to have
6	successfully completed a firearm and hunter education program approved by the Department
7	of Wildlife and Fisheries prior to receiving a hunting license; and
8	WHEREAS, firearm and hunter education programs teach the state's youth not only
9	how to hunt but also how to use weapons responsibly, how to respect weapons and their
10	capabilities, and tries to make them understand that the use of a firearm is not akin to a video
11	game, all of these being lessons that could reduce the occurrence of severe incidents or
12	mistakes involving a firearm; and
13	WHEREAS, firearm and hunter programs include instruction in areas such as
14	understanding responsibilities as a sportsman; understanding hunting ethics; demonstrating
15	the safe handling of firearms; understanding and identifying different types of firearms,
16	ammunition, and the correct usage of both; learning how to practice safe firearms cleaning
17	and storage in the home; the basic principles of wildlife management, conservation, and
18	preservation; and understanding how hunters can be conservation tools in wildlife
19	management; and

1	WHEREAS, familiarity with these principles, equipment, and responsibilities can
2	benefit our society overall and may well reduce the number of gun-related accidents; and
3	WHEREAS, several states, such as Kansas, Iowa, and South Carolina, have instituted
4	programs whereby students in their middle and high schools may opt to meet their firearm
5	and hunter education obligations through their physical education classes; and
6	WHEREAS, Louisiana's firearm and hunter education program requires passage of
7	an online test of the laws and knowledge of firearm equipment; basic shooting skills; basic
8	hunting skills; how to be a safe, responsible, and ethical hunter; and survival skills; followed
9	by four to six hours of hands-on experience in outdoor shooting, blood trailing, tree stand
10	safety, and more survival skills; and
11	WHEREAS, all of these principles and learning experiences are necessary for those
12	people who want to be outdoors hunting but the classes also provide knowledge and skills
13	that are generally useful across the board and are skills and information that can easily and
14	quickly be relayed through voluntary physical education classes; and
15	WHEREAS, since the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is currently statutorily
16	tasked with overseeing the firearm and hunter education programs, having them partner with
17	the Department of Education and the Louisiana School Boards Association allows delivery
18	of training that is consistent and at the core of the department's mission, and enables the
19	department to reach out to the next generation of Louisiana sportsmen and women through
20	programs coordinated throughout the state's schools.
21	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
22	urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to work with the Department of
23	Education and the Louisiana School Boards Association to provide hunter education as a
24	physical education elective in the public high schools.
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 state superintendent of education,
27	and the executive director of the Louisiana School Boards Association.

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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)]

HCR 65 Original

2019 Regular Session

Bishop

Urges and requests the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to work with the Dept. of Education and the La. School Boards Association to provide firearm and hunter education as a physical education voluntary elective in public high schools.