SLS 22RS-142 ORIGINAL

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 86

BY SENATORS CATHEY AND LUNEAU AND REPRESENTATIVE RISER

WILDLIFE/FISHERIES DEPT. Provides for a bear hunting season in Louisiana. (8/1/22)

1	AN ACT
2	To enact R.S. 56:116(A), relative hunting seasons; to provide for a bear hunting season; to
3	provide for the powers and duties of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries
4	Commission; to provide for the management of the bear population; to provide for
5	reporting; and to provide for related matters.
6	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
7	Section 1. R.S. 56:116(A) is hereby enacted to read as follows:
8	§116. Wild birds and wild quadrupeds; bear season ; special hunting seasons
9	A. (1) Beginning 2023 and every year thereafter, the commission shall
10	establish a bear season. The commission shall define the dates, times, and area
11	for hunting bear and may use any of the following methods to manage the bear
12	population:
13	(a) Limit the number and sex of bears that can be taken.
14	(b) Prohibit taking bears outfitted with a radio collar.
15	(c) Prohibit the use of dogs or bait.
16	(d) Establish a lottery system for the issuance of tags and for the
17	opportunity to participate in the season.
18	(e) Any other limitation the commission finds useful or necessary to

SLS 22RS-142

ORIGINAL
SB NO. 86

manage the resource.

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(2) Any bear taken shall immediately be reported to the department in a manner provided by the commission. By January 15, 2024, and every year thereafter, the department shall report the number of bears taken the previous year; the number of tags issued, if any; the estimated bear population in the state; and any other relevant data to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Environment.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Tyler S. McCloud.

DIGEST 2022 Regular Session

Cathey

SB 86 Original

<u>Present law</u> authorizes the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to fix, approve, and adopt seasons and bag and possession limits and to establish other rules and regulations for the hunting, taking, possession, or protection of any species or sex of wild quadrupeds and wild birds, in any specified locality or localities of the state. <u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present</u> law.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires the commission beginning 2023 to annually establish a bear season by defining the dates, times, and area for hunting bear.

<u>Proposed law</u> authorizes the commission to manage the bear population by limiting the number and sex of bears that can be taken, prohibiting taking bears outfitted with a radio or use of dogs or bait, establishing a lottery system for the issuance of tags, and to participate, or any other useful or necessary limitation.

Proposed law requires immediate reporting to the department of any bear taken.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires an annual report beginning January 15, 2024, by the department to the oversight committees of the number of bears taken, the number of tags issued, the estimated bear population, and any other relevant data.

Effective August 1, 2022.

(Adds R.S. 56:116(A))