
DIGEST

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Champagne

HB No. 148

Abstract: Dedicates state revenues received from violations of federal and state environmental and water quality laws associated with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill of 2010 to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund.

Present constitution establishes the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund to provide a dedicated, recurring source of revenues for the development and implementation of a program to protect and restore La.'s coastal area.

Present constitution provides for allocations of mineral revenues into the fund and provided that the balance in the fund which consists of mineral revenues from severance taxes, royalty payments, bonus payments, and rentals shall not exceed an amount provided by law.

Proposed constitutional amendment requires that monies received for violations pursuant to federal law (Federal Water Pollution Control Act 33 U.S.C. 1321) and present law associated with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill be deposited and credited to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund for integrated coastal protection efforts, including coastal restoration, hurricane protection, and improving the resiliency of the La. coastal area affected by the oil spill. Further specifies that proposed constitutional amendment shall not be construed to affect funds associated with the Natural Resources Damage Assessment process.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that the fund balance limitations under present constitution relative to mineral revenues deposited into the fund shall not apply to deposits made under proposed constitutional amendment.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Nov. 4, 2014.

(Adds Const. Art. VII, §10.2(G))