AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 30:961(E) and to enact R.S. 30:961(I), relative to withdrawal of surface water; to extend the time frame within which opportunities for cooperative agreements for such withdrawal may be entered into; to provide for approval by legislative committees of certain cooperative endeavor agreements; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 30:961(E) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 30:961(I) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§961. Cooperative endeavor agreements; withdrawal of surface water; intent

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E.(1) No A cooperative endeavor agreement to withdraw running surface water, or an assignment of such, entered into pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter shall have an initial term which exceeds two years, however, such two-years terms may be renewed through not to exceed two years. No new cooperative endeavor agreement shall be entered into for which an application was received by the department after December 31, 2014; however, except as otherwise provided in this Subsection, existing agreements may be renewed in two-year increments but shall terminate no later than December 31, 2020.

(2) A person or entity who has entered into a cooperative endeavor agreement to withdraw running surface waters or has obtained an assignment of such, may terminate such agreement effective after December 31, 2012 2014. In order to be effective, the person or entity seeking to terminate shall provide written notice by certified mail to the secretary at least thirty days prior to termination.

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CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.
I. Any cooperative endeavor agreement approved or entered into by the secretary pursuant to the Section which provides for the withdrawal of running surface water for use outside the boundaries of the state of Louisiana shall require the approval of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. In determining whether to approve such agreement, the committees shall consider the reasonableness of the withdrawal, whether the withdrawal is contrary to the conservation and uses of the running surface water, and whether the withdrawal is detrimental to the environment or the public welfare.

Section 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 2 of Act No. 955 of the 2010 Regular Session of the Legislature, the provisions of Chapter 9-B of Title 30 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 30:961 through 963, shall continue in effect after December 31, 2012, and shall continue in effect until the last termination date for any cooperative endeavor agreement entered into under the provisions of that Chapter.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: ____________________