

New law changes the name of the Ground Water Resources Commission to the Water Resources Commission.

New law adds the following to the membership of the commission:

1. The executive director of the Sabine River Authority or his designee.
2. The executive director of the Public Service Commission or his designee.
3. A member appointed from a list of three names provided by the Ports Association of Louisiana.
4. A member appointed from a list of three names provided by the Louisiana River Pilots' Association.
5. A member who is a lawyer appointed from a list of names submitted by LSU Law School, Loyola University School of Law, Southern University Law School, and Tulane University School of Law.
6. Two members, one appointed by the chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee and one appointed by the chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, who represent residential consumers.

New law adds the chairmen, or their designees, of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and Senate Committee on Natural Resources as ex-officio nonvoting members. New law further provides that the chairmen shall not be counted in determining a quorum, but when present, shall be counted as members to establish a quorum.

Prior law required the commission to develop a statewide ground water resource management program that shall include the evaluation of current and future demands for ground water, develop a conservation program, study alternatives to ground water use, and use of alternative technologies and to hold public hearings and consult with local governmental entities in the development of such programs.

New law requires the commission to evaluate the state's surface water resources including current and projected demands; inventory the state's surface water supplies; identify technical research and previously developed information on surface water; study alternatives to surface water use including treatment and transmission systems; and reclamation; investigate incentives for conservation and the use of alternative technologies, including public education and conservation programs. Further provides that the evaluation should stress fostering efficient and productive use of the total water supply of the state in a sustainable manner in the satisfaction of economic, environmental, and other social goals.

New law changes the name of the Ground Water Management Advisory Task Force to the Water Management Advisory Task Force. New law adds a representative of the Louisiana Water Environment Association to the Water Management Advisory Task Force.

Prior law required the task force to develop a statewide ground water resource management program.

New law requires the task force to assist the commission in its duty to evaluate the state's surface water resources including current and projected demands; inventory the state's surface water supplies; identify technical research and previously developed information on surface water; study alternatives to surface water use including treatment and transmission systems; and reclamation; investigate incentives for conservation and the use of alternative technologies, including public education and conservation programs. Further provides that the evaluation should stress fostering efficient and productive use of the total water supply of the state in a sustainable manner in the satisfaction of economic, environmental, and other social goals.

Effective August 1, 2012.

(Amends R.S. 36:359(K) and (L) and 802.18, and R.S. 38:3076(A)(24), 3087.136(4), 3087.266(A)(1), Chapter 13 A-1 of Title 38 (Heading), 3097.2(3), 3097.4(A), (D)(4), (5) and (6), and 3097.7; adds R.S. 38:3097.4(D)(7))