
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

SB 324 Engrossed

DIGEST
2026 Regular Session

Reese

Present law (R.S. 39:100.56) creates the Water Sector Program and the Water Sector Commission to provide grant funding for repairs, improvements, and consolidation of community water and sewer systems and provides for the administration of the program.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law removes the office of facility planning and control from the administration of the program, including the working panel that submits recommendations for funding to the commission.

Present law requires a community water or sewer system be placed under a court-appointed receivership or the appointment of a fiscal administrator in accordance with present law to qualify for emergency grant funding.

Proposed law clarifies that an appointment made in accordance with present law may include the appointment of a limited fiscal administrator or receiver and otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law requires that any approvals of funding for limited fiscal administrator expenses be made in accordance with the guidance promulgated pursuant to present law.

Present law requires the commission to hold a meeting no later than September 1, 2024, to submit priorities to the division to utilize in the development of guidance for emergency grants and any new grants awarded pursuant to the Water Sector Program on or after July 1, 2024.

Proposed law removes the deadline, further requires the commission to update priorities to the division as needed, and otherwise retains present law.

Present law requires the division to promulgate guidance for emergency grants and any new grants awarded after July 1, 2024 that includes application requirements, deadlines for application submissions and approval, criteria for ratings, a process for prioritizing critical infrastructure needs, and procedures for requests and approvals of funding for emergencies and receivership expenses.

Proposed law further requires the guidance to include rate study and matching fund requirements and procedures for approvals of funding of limited fiscal administrator expenses and otherwise retains present law.

Present law requires that within 45 days of the end of the application period, the division shall submit ratings of the proposed projects by the working panel to the commission.

Proposed law extends the deadline from 45 to 60 days and otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law authorizes the commission to submit recommendations for subsequent grant awards to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget based upon the ratings and recommendations of the working panel without requiring a new application period.

Proposed law authorizes the commission to rescind any grant award for a project if the grant recipient fails to comply with the guidance approved by the commission.

Proposed law disqualifies any grant recipient that fails to comply with the rate study requirements of present law from receiving future Water Sector Program grant awards.

Proposed law authorizes the commission to approve modifications to the scope of work of the original grant award. Further provides that commission approval is not required for minor technical changes that do not affect the purpose of the project, including the means and methods of construction.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 39:100.56(C), (O)(1)(b), (2), (3), (7), and (8); adds R.S. 39:100.56(K)(4) and (O)(12), (13), and (14))