

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 171

BY SENATOR PRESSLY

PUBLIC WORKS. Provides for the Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and Transportation Authority. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT
2 To amend and reenact R.S.38:5.1(A), 20(A) and (B), 84(A) and (B), 2351(A) and (B),
3 2352(1), the introductory paragraph of 2353(B)(1), 2353(B)(1)(d) and (h) and (2),
4 2354(A)(1), the introductory paragraph of 2356(A) and 2356(B)(2), and 2358,
5 relative to public works; to provide for realigning of agencies and responsibilities;
6 to provide for the technical changes relative to the Department of Transportation and
7 Development's members of the authority; to provide for Coastal Protection and
8 Restoration Authority, and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S.38:5.1(A), 20(A) and (B), 84(A) and (B), 2351(A) and (B), 2352(1),
11 the introductory paragraph of 2353(B)(1), 2353(B)(1)(d) and (h) and (2), 2354(A)(1), the
12 introductory paragraph of 2356(A) and 2356(B)(2), and 2358 are hereby amended and
13 reenacted to read as follows:

14 §5.1. Planning assistance to municipal and other planning agencies; federal grants
15 A. For the purpose of providing planning assistance to municipal, parish,
16 regional and other planning agencies of the state of Louisiana in the solution of their
17 planning problems, the Department of ~~Public Works, State of Louisiana ,be and~~

1 initiatives for flood protection, infrastructure planning, and economic development
 2 in the upland area. Consistent with this goal, it is the policy of this state to achieve
 3 a proper balance between development and conservation and encourage the use of
 4 state resources in responsible economic development of the area. The authority shall
 5 implement the policy within these areas ensuring the efficient and coordinated
 6 management of water resources within its jurisdiction, addressing issues related to
 7 ~~water quantity~~ **watershed management**, flood risk mitigation, **floodplain**
 8 **management**, navigation, economic development, and recreation. It shall be the
 9 policy of the state within these areas that through the comprehensive and coordinated
 10 efforts and acting in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter, the authority
 11 shall exercise all powers necessary to plan, develop, and implement projects and
 12 programs consistent with the legislative intent expressed in this Chapter.

13 * * *

14 §2352. Definitions

15 As used in this Chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed
 16 to them:

17 (1) "Integrated" means the coordinated planning, funding, construction, and
 18 operation of flood control, **floodplain management**, navigation, recreation, ~~water~~
 19 **watershed** management, and economic development projects to ensure efficient use
 20 of resources, minimize conflicts, and promote sustainable development.

21 * * *

22 §2353. Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and
 23 Transportation Authority Board

24 * * *

25 B.(1) The Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy,
 26 Navigation, and Transportation Authority Board shall consist of no more than ~~sixteen~~
 27 **seventeen** members, selected by the governor **and subject to Senate confirmation**,
 28 representing the following:

29 * * *

1 (d) ~~Louisiana Economic Development~~. The secretary of the department shall
2 ~~serve until~~; **The Coastal Protection and Restoration Advisory Board**. **The**
3 **executive director shall serve as a nonvoting member until** or without, express
4 gubernatorial designation of an alternative.

5 * * *

6 (h) ~~A~~ **Two** levee ~~board~~ **districts** located within the upland parishes, whole
7 or in part.

8 * * *

9 (2) The board shall not consist of more than two port directors and no more
10 than ~~two~~ **three** levee ~~boards~~ **districts**.

11 * * *

12 §2354. Master and annual plans; development; priorities

13 A.(1) The board shall, in accordance with the procedures set forth in this
14 Section, develop a master plan and an annual plan for protecting, conserving,
15 enhancing, and developing the area outside the coastal ~~zone~~ **area** through the
16 construction and management of integrated projects and programs, including
17 privately funded projects or plans, and addressing those activities that significantly
18 affect such projects, all consistent with the legislative intent as expressed in this
19 Chapter, and which plan shall be subject to the approval of the legislature as
20 provided in Subsections B and E of this Section. In addition, the board, in
21 accordance with the procedures set forth in this Section including legislative
22 approval, shall review, revise, and amend the master plan when necessary or, at a
23 minimum, every six years.

24 * * *

25 §2356. Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and
26 Transportation Authority

27 A. The Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation,
28 and Transportation Authority is hereby created within the ~~office of public works~~
29 **Department of Transportation and Development**. The authority shall:

1 * * *

2 B. * * *

3 * * *

4 (2) The governor may appoint an executive director of the Coordinated Use
5 of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and Transportation Authority.
6 In the event an executive director is not appointed, the ~~director of public works~~
7 **secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development or his designee**
8 may serve as the executive director of the Coordinated Use of Resources for
9 Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and Transportation Authority.

10 * * *

11 §2358. Interaction with Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

12 The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and the Coordinated Use
13 of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and Transportation Authority
14 shall jointly develop integrated flood protection strategies. The Coastal Protection
15 and Restoration Authority shall remain responsible for its functions and
16 responsibilities as defined in R.S. 49:214.5.1 et seq. The Coordinated Use of
17 Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and Transportation Authority shall
18 oversee riverine flood management, inland navigation, and ~~water resource~~ **flood**
19 **control** infrastructure within the upland area as defined in R.S. 38:2352 and as
20 consistent with this Chapter.

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)]

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Present law provides the Department of Public Works, state of Louisiana provides planning assistance to municipal, parish, regional and other planning agencies of the state and is authorized to apply for and accept grants of money from the U.S. government or any federal agencies and may contract with them as necessary to accept the grant and any requirements for matching the grants. Proposed law retains present law and changes the agency from the Department of Public Works, state of Louisiana to the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD).

Proposed law provides the chief engineer of the office of engineering of the Department of

Transportation and Development will be a member appointed to the Red River Compact Commission. Proposed law changes the member from the chief engineer of the office of engineering of the Department of Transportation and Development to the secretary of the Department of Conservation and Energy.

Present law provides parishes and municipalities authorized to comply with federal flood insurance may adopt, ordinances, rules, and regulations, including zoning and land use regulations, necessary to comply with the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 in coordination with the chief resilience officer of DOTD. Proposed law retains present law and removes the chief resilience officer designee.

Proposed law provides the chief resilience officer of DOTD will cooperate with the Federal Insurance Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the planning and carrying out of state participation in the National Flood Insurance Program and will aid, advise, and cooperate with parishes and municipalities attempting to qualify for participation in the program. Proposed law retains present law and removes chief resilience office of DOTD as the designee.

Present law provides the Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and Transportation Authority also known as the "authority", is established as the single coordinating entity responsible for prioritizing, planning, and funding projects related to flood control, risk reduction, navigation, and water resource management in all areas of the state not included within the coastal area. Proposed law retains present law and changes terminology from "risk reduction" to "flood risk reduction", and changes from "water resource management" to "floodplain and watershed management".

Present law provides the authority will implement policy addressing issues related to water quantity, flood risk mitigation, navigation, economic development, and recreation. Proposed law changes terminology from "water quantity" to "watershed management" and adds "floodplain management" to the responsibilities of the authority.

Present law provides the definition of "integrated" as the coordinated planning, funding, construction, and operation of flood control, navigation, recreation, water management, and economic development projects to ensure efficient use of resources, minimize conflicts, and promote sustainable development. Proposed law retains present law and adds "floodplain management" to the definition. Proposed law further changes from "water management" to "watershed management" in the definition.

Present law provides the board shall have 16 members. Proposed law changes the number of members from 16 members to 17 members. Proposed law further provides members of the authority shall be subject to Senate confirmation.

Present law provides the secretary of LED will be a member of the authority and serve as a nonvoting member until gubernatorial designation of an alternative. Proposed law provides the agency authority member will change from secretary of LED to the executive director of CPRA.

Present law provides for an authority member from a levee board district located within the upland parishes. Proposed law retains present law and changes from one member to two members from upland parishes.

Present law provides the board will not consist of more than two levee boards. Proposed law changes from two levee boards to three levee districts.

Proposed law provides for technical changes.

Present law provides the authority will oversee riverine flood management, inland navigation, and water resource infrastructure within the upland area. Proposed law retains

present law and changes the responsibility from water resource infrastructure to flood control infrastructure.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S.38:5.1(A), 20(A) and (B), 84(A) and (B), 2351(A) and (B), 2352(1), 2353(B)(1)(intro para), 2353(B)(1)(d) and (h) and (2), 2354(A)(1), 2356(A)(intro para) and 2356(B)(2), and 2358)