
DIGEST

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HB 710 Original

2026 Regular Session

Bamberg

Abstract: Provides for assessments on surface water withdrawals from Lake Bistineau and for funds collected to be paid into the Aquatic Plant Control Dedicated Fund Account to be used for the control of aquatic weeds.

Present law authorizes the withdrawal of running surface water pursuant to cooperative endeavor agreements and requires reimbursement to the state at fair market value for withdrawals from bodies of water managed by the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries that are negatively impacted by invasive aquatic vegetation. Such reimbursements are deposited into the Aquatic Plant Control Dedicated Fund Account.

Proposed law retains the requirement for fair market value reimbursement and further provides that an assessment is required on all running surface water withdrawn from Lake Bistineau to fund the annual costs of the treatment and control of aquatic weeds on Lake Bistineau. Specifies that the assessment is to be determined by the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries and is capped at \$1 million annually.

Proposed law requires that all amounts collected from the Lake Bistineau assessment be deposited into the Aquatic Plant Control Dedicated Fund Account and mandates that such amounts be used solely for the treatment and control of aquatic weeds on Lake Bistineau.

(Amends R.S. 30:961(J))