

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 802

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCKIN

WATER/RESOURCES: Provides with respect to the management of watershed restoration

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Chapter 9-C of Title 30 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised
3 of R.S. 30:971 through 975, relative to watershed restoration and conservation; to
4 create the Watershed Restoration and Conservation Fund and establish its
5 mechanism for funding; to provide for the expenditures, administration, and
6 reporting of the fund; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related
7 matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. Chapter 9-C of Title 30 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be
10 comprised of R.S. 30:971 through 975, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 CHAPTER 9-C. WATERSHED RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION FUND

12 §971. Creation; purpose

13 A. There is hereby established in the state treasury as a special fund the
14 Watershed Restoration and Conservation Fund, hereafter referred to in this Chapter
15 as "the fund".

16 B. The purpose of the fund shall be to support the reclamation, restoration,
17 and the long-term stewardship of lands and watersheds impacted by sand and gravel
18 mining operations, with priority given to flood-prone areas and impaired watersheds.

19 §972. Deposits

1 After allocation of money to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund as
2 provided in Article VII, Section 9(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, the treasurer
3 shall deposit into the fund one hundred percent of the portion of recurring severance
4 tax revenues collected on sand and gravel that would have been deposited into the
5 state general fund after allocations of such revenues otherwise required by the
6 Constitution of Louisiana and the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950. Monies
7 designated for the fund and received by the state treasurer from donations, gifts,
8 grants, or other revenue shall be deposited into the fund.

9 §973. Use of Monies

10 Monies in the fund shall be invested in the same manner as monies in the
11 state general fund. Interest earned on investment of monies in the fund shall be
12 credited to the fund. Unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end
13 of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund.

14 §974. Allocation

15 Only statutorily-created watershed-based entities shall be eligible to receive
16 allocations from the fund provided they meet the following criteria;

17 (1) The entity is required by law to develop and maintain a master plan and
18 an annual plan, both of which are subject to review and approval by the legislature.

19 (2) The entity has statutory responsibility for floodplain management within
20 the watershed, including authority over flood risk reduction projects and actions.

21 (3) The entity is authorized by law to promulgate rules and regulations
22 necessary to carry out its watershed and floodplain management responsibilities.

23 (4) The entity is governed by a legislatively-authorized governing board
24 whose members:

25 (a) Include representation from the parishes located wholly or partially
26 within the watershed.

27 (b) Collectively possess relevant professional expertise and credentials to
28 include engineering, hydrology, water resources management, floodplain

1 management, environmental science, land use planning, and public administration,
2 as prescribed by law.

3 §975. Reporting

4 An annual report detailing the receipts, expenditures, and funded activities
5 of the Watershed Restoration and Conservation Fund shall be submitted to the House
6 Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on
7 Natural Resources by March first of each calendar year.

8 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2026.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

HB 802 Original

2026 Regular Session

McMakin

Abstract: Creates the Watershed Restoration and Conservation Fund and establishes its mechanism for funding as well as the expenditures, administration, and reporting of the fund.

Proposed law establishes a Watershed Restoration and Conservation Fund to support the reclamation, restoration, and the long-term stewardship of lands and watersheds impacted by sand and gravel mining operations, with priority given to flood-prone areas and impaired watersheds.

Present law provides for allocation of severance tax revenues collected on sand and gravel.

Proposed law retains present law provisions and adds requirement for the treasurer to deposit into the fund 100% of the portion of recurring severance tax revenues collected on sand and gravel that would have been deposited into the state general fund after allocations of revenues required by present law.

Proposed law provides that monies in the fund be invested in the same manner as monies in the state general fund with interest earned on investment of monies in the fund credited to the fund and any unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the fiscal year remaining in the fund.

Proposed law establishes criteria for allocation of the fund to statutorily-created watershed-based entities who have statutorily created responsibility for floodplain management within the watershed, are authorized to promulgate rules and regulations, and are governed by a legislatively-authorized board that includes representation from parishes within the watershed and possess expertise and credentials in relevant fields.

Proposed law requires an annual report detailing the receipts, expenditures, and funded activities of the Watershed Restoration and Conservation Fund to be submitted to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.

(Adds R.S. 30:971-975)