
DIGEST

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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 possesses 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)