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## 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)]

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HB 890 Original

2026 Regular Session

Coates

**Abstract:** Imposes additional permit application requirements for applicants seeking a coastal use permit for certain activity on Lake Maurepas or Lake Pontchartrain.

Present law establishes a coastal zone management program. Specifies that the Dept. of Conservation and Energy, office of coastal management, is the state agency responsible for management of activities in the coastal zone, including the issuance of coastal use permits.

Present law also establishes requirements for the issuance of coastal use permits and authorizes the promulgation of rules to provide guidance on permit decisions.

Proposed law imposes additional requirements on any applicant seeking a coastal use permit to allow the following activity on Lake Maurepas or Lake Pontchartrain:

- (1) Pipeline trenching or burial.
- (2) Platform construction, pile driving, or anchoring systems.
- (3) Dredging or sediment displacement.
- (4) Geophysical or seismic survey activities.

Proposed law requires the applicant to demonstrate all of the following to the department and requires the department to make written findings supported by evidence in the administrative record for each:

- (1) Disturbance of submerged lands is minimized.
- (2) The activity will not permanently alter lake bottom contours.
- (3) Sediment transport patterns will not contribute to erosion, channelization, or persistent turbidity increases.
- (4) Disturbed sediment will not release harmful concentrations of heavy metals or hydrocarbons.
- (5) Benthic biological productivity will recover within five years of disturbance.

Proposed law requires that the following additional documentation be submitted for these permit applications:

- (1) Benthic habitat mapping.
- (2) Sediment core sampling.
- (3) Laboratory testing of sediments for certain substances.
- (4) Sediment elutriate testing.
- (5) Sediment transport and hydrodynamic modeling.
- (6) Detailed descriptions of any seismic or geophysical surveys.

Proposed law requires that permit applications subject to proposed law be reviewed by an independent, neutral expert selected by the department and paid for by the applicant.

Proposed law requires a public hearing in the parish or region most affected by the proposed activity that offers the public the opportunity to submit oral and written comments and requires that the department respond in writing to all material scientific and technical issues raised by comments received.

Proposed law requires the department to maintain an administrative record of all data, independent findings, comments, and responses to comments relied upon to make a final determination.

Proposed law applies to any permit application for which a final permit has not yet been issued on the effective date of proposed law.

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

(Adds R.S. 49:214.43)