

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 367

BY SENATOR EDMONDS

WATER MANAGEMENT. Creates the Watershed Conservation Fund. (8/1/26)

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 30:1270, relative to the Watershed Conservation Fund; to provide for establishment of the fund; to provide for a purpose; to provide for allocation of severance tax revenues; to provide for use of revenues; to provide for eligible entities; to provide for governing boards; to provide for parish representation; to provide for industry expertise; to provide for administration; to provide for reporting; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 30:1270 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1270. Watershed Restoration and Conservation Fund

A. There is hereby established in the state treasury a special fund to be known as the "Watershed Restoration and Conservation Fund", hereinafter referred to as the "fund". The purpose of the fund shall be to support the reclamation, restoration, and long-term stewardship of lands and watersheds impacted by sand and stone mining operations, with priority given to flood-prone areas and impaired watersheds. Of the severance tax revenues received in each fiscal year by the state as a result of the mining and production of sand

1 and stone, the treasurer shall make the following allocations:

2 (1) To the Bond Security and Redemption Fund, as required by Article
3 VII, Section 9(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

4 (2) To the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund, as required by
5 Article VII, Section 10.2 of the Constitution of Louisiana.

6 (3) To the political subdivisions of the state as provided in Article VII,
7 Section 4(D) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

8 B. After making the allocations and deposits provided for in Subsection
9 (A) of this Section, the treasurer shall deposit in and credit to the fund any
10 remaining amount of severance tax revenues collected from the mining and
11 production of sand and stone.

12 C. Monies in the fund shall be used exclusively for activities within
13 eligible watersheds, including but not limited to the following:

14 (1) Reclamation and restoration of abandoned, inactive, or unrestored
15 sand and stone mining sites.

16 (2) Watershed-based flood risk reduction projects and actions, including
17 floodplain management activities.

18 (3) Soil, sediment, and water quality improvement projects in mined or
19 impaired watersheds.

20 (4) Reasonable operational, administrative, and planning costs necessary
21 to carry out the statutory purposes of the eligible watershed-based entity.

22 D. In order to be eligible to receive monies from the fund, an entity shall
23 be established pursuant to Louisiana law and shall meet all of the following
24 criteria:

25 (1) The entity is required by law to develop and maintain a master plan
26 and an annual plan, each subject to review and approval by the legislature.

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

1 (3) The entity is authorized by law to adopt and promulgate rules and
2 regulations necessary to carry out its statutory responsibility and authority.

3 (4) The entity is governed by a legislatively authorized governing board,
4 the membership of which meets all of the following:

5 (a) Includes representation from the parishes located in part or in whole
6 within the watershed.

7 (b) Is composed of members who collectively possess relevant
8 professional expertise and credentials, including but not limited to engineering,
9 hydrology, water resource management, floodplain management, environmental
10 science, land use planning, and public administration, as prescribed by law.

11 E. The powers of the secretary provided for in this Section shall be in
12 addition to and shall not limit the powers conferred on the secretary in other
13 provisions of this Title or by any other provisions of any state or federal law or
14 regulation, and shall include without limitation the power to do the following:

15 (1) Make expenditures or commitments to make expenditures from the
16 fund or disburse funds for the reclamation, restoration, and stewardship of
17 lands and watersheds impacted by sand and stone mining operations.

18 (2) Employ, appoint, remove, assign, and promote from any funding
19 sources authorizing administrative costs such personnel as is necessary for the
20 efficient administration of this Section.

21 (3) Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations, in accordance with the
22 Administrative Procedure Act, to implement the provisions of this Section.

23 (4) Negotiate and execute contracts, upon such terms as he may agree
24 upon, for legal, financial, engineering, construction, and other professional
25 services necessary to meet the purpose of this Section.

26 (5) Perform such other specific functions as may be enumerated or
27 envisioned by the provisions of this Section.

28 F. The secretary shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and
29 disbursements related to the administration of the fund and shall make a

1 **specific annual report addressing the administration of the fund to the Senate**
2 **Committee on Natural Resources, the House Committee on Natural Resources**
3 **and Environment, and the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality, before**
4 **March first.**

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)]

	DIGEST	
SB 367 Original	2026 Regular Session	Edmonds

Present law provides for severance taxes on the mining and production of sand and stone. Further provides for allocation of monies collected from severance taxes.

Proposed law retains present law and creates the Watershed Restoration and Conservation Fund for restoration and stewardship of lands and watersheds impacted by mining of sand and stone. Requires the secretary of C&E to administer the fund. Further provides for eligibility of certain entities to receive monies from the fund.

Proposed law requires the secretary to report information on administration of the fund to the legislature annually.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 30:1270)