

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 987

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

HIGHER EDUCATION: Realigns energy-related programs by moving the Louisiana Geological Survey under the Louisiana State University Energy Institute

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:1492 and R.S. 36:358(E)(2) and (G), relative to the Louisiana  
3 State University Energy Institute; to provide for the unification of energy-related  
4 programs by moving the Louisiana Geological Survey under the Louisiana State  
5 University Energy Institute; to provide for the responsibilities of the Louisiana  
6 Geological Survey; to provide an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:1492 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

9 §1492. Louisiana Geological Survey

10 A. The Louisiana Geological Survey shall be located within the Energy  
11 Institute at Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College and  
12 shall be a part of that institution. ~~The Louisiana Geological Survey shall maintain~~  
13 ~~current surface and subsurface geological surveys of the entire state and shall work~~  
14 ~~in cooperation with other state entities and other political subdivisions as appropriate~~  
15 ~~and required by law.~~

16 B. The Louisiana Geological Survey shall be responsible for the following:

17 (1) Maintaining current surface and subsurface geological surveys of the  
18 entire state.

19 (2) Coordinating with the office of technology services for the operation and  
20 maintenance of information technology provided for in R.S. 39:15.3 for the storage,

1 management, and modeling of surface and subsurface geological and geographic  
2 information system data.

3 (3) Coordinating with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries regarding  
4 the storage and maintenance of surveys conducted pursuant to R.S. 56:30.4 and 30.5.

5 (4) Coordinating with the Department of Conservation and Energy and  
6 specifically the offices of state resources, permitting and compliance, and energy  
7 regarding the storage and maintenance of any surveys or other geological data within  
8 the jurisdiction of the department pursuant to R.S. 30:4 et seq.

9 C. The Energy Institute shall coordinate with and provide periodic updates  
10 to the Natural Resources Commission regarding the storage and maintenance of the  
11 surveys.

12 D. Cooperative endeavor agreements may be used to implement this Section.

13 Section 2. R.S. 36:358(E)(2) and (G) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
14 follows:

15 §358. Offices; purposes and functions

16 \* \* \*

17 E. The office of state resources shall:

18 \* \* \*

19 (2) Work in cooperation with the ~~Center for Energy Studies~~ Institute to  
20 maintain current surface and subsurface geological surveys of the state, or otherwise  
21 at the discretion of the secretary or his designee; conduct geological mapping;  
22 prepare geological hazards assessments and resource inventories; and conduct  
23 process investigations and related studies.

24 \* \* \*

25 G. The office of energy shall organize, plan, supervise, direct, administer,  
26 execute, and be responsible for the functions and programs relating to the  
27 deployment and operation of alternative energy infrastructure in this state in a  
28 manner that results in affordable and reliable energy. The office of energy shall also  
29 work in cooperation with the ~~Center for Energy Studies~~ Institute to create and carry

1 out a central, comprehensive, and unified energy data and information program  
 2 which will collect, evaluate, assemble, analyze, and disseminate data and information  
 3 which is relevant to energy resource reserves, energy production, demand, and  
 4 technology, and related economic and statistical information, or which is relevant to  
 5 the adequacy of energy resources to meet demands in the near and longer term future  
 6 of the state. The office of energy shall work to provide the department and the  
 7 Natural Resources Commission with technical assistance and expertise in matters  
 8 related to energy and natural resources and shall also work to identify policy options  
 9 relative to energy related matters upon request. Finally, the office of energy shall  
 10 coordinate with academic and research institutions who possess specialized expertise  
 11 in areas related to energy and natural resources on behalf of the department.

12 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
 13 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
 14 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 15 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 16 effective on the day following such approval.

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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 987 Original

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McFarland

**Abstract:** Moves the La. Geological Survey within the Energy Institute at La. State University (LSU), defines the responsibilities of the La. Geological Survey, and requires the office of state resources within the Dept. of Conservation and Energy to work cooperatively with the Energy Institute regarding state geological and energy data.

Present law establishes that the La. Geological Survey is to be located at LSU and that it is responsible for maintaining current geological surveys of the state.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that the La. Geological Survey is to be located within the Energy Institute at LSU.

Present law requires the La. Geological Survey to coordinate with other state agencies as provided by present law.

Proposed law removes this language under present law and specifies that the La. Geological Survey is responsible for coordinating with the office of technology services, the Dept. of

Wildlife and Fisheries, the Dept. of Conservation and Energy, and the Natural Resources Commission regarding the storage and maintenance of state geologic data.

Proposed law authorizes the use of cooperative endeavor agreements to implement proposed law.

Present law establishes the office of state resources within the Dept. of Conservation and Energy and provides for the functions of the office.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the office of state resources to work in cooperation with the Center for Energy Studies at LSU regarding geological surveys and data and other energy-related data.

Proposed law removes this requirement and instead requires the office to work cooperatively with the Energy Institute at LSU.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:1492 and R.S. 36:358(E)(2) and (G))