
DIGEST

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HB 1205 Original

2026 Regular Session

Marcelle

Abstract: Creates groundwater conservation districts for the Chicot, Mississippi Alluvial, and Southern Hills aquifers and provides for their boards, membership of the boards; appointment of members and hearings and reporting of the boards.

Present law establishes a Sparta groundwater conservation district and a board that governs the district. Present law further provides for membership of the board, appointment of board members and their terms of service, hearings of the board, and reporting the board is required to perform.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law establishes the same type of district in present law for three additional aquifers systems in the state, including the Chicot, Mississippi River Alluvial, and Southern Hills aquifer systems.

Proposed law provides that for each of the districts, the following representatives may serve as ex-officio members of the board:

- (1) The secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality or his designee.
- (2) The commissioner of agriculture and forestry or his designee.
- (3) A representative of the United States Geological Survey.
- (4) The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries or his designee.
- (5) The secretary of the Department of Conservation and Energy or his designee.
- (6) A representative of the Louisiana Rural Water Association appointed by the association.
- (7) A representative of the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association appointed by the association.
- (8) A representative of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation appointed by the federation.
- (9) Each senator whose senatorial district includes any portion of any parish included within the district or his designee.
- (10) Each member of the House of Representatives whose representative district includes any portion of any parish included within the district or his designee.
- (11) One or more representatives of industrial users of the groundwater appointed by the board to serve at its pleasure.
- (12) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.
- (13) One representative from each university located within any portion of the district.

Proposed law further provides for procedural requirements for the election of officers and for the frequency and location of board meetings for each of the districts created under proposed law.

Proposed law establishes the powers of each of boards created under proposed law, including the study of groundwater resources and consideration of what is necessary or advisable for conservation of the groundwater resources.

Proposed law provides for board hearings, actions that may be taken at board hearings, and notice of hearings for each board created under proposed law.

Proposed law authorizes the chairman of each board to subpoena witnesses and documents and provides procedures related to the issuance of subpoenas for each board created by proposed law.

Proposed law requires each board of commissioners to annually report to the house and senate natural resources committee regarding at least the following:

- (1) The amount of water used for public supply, industrial purposes, and agricultural purposes, respectively.
- (2) Actual and projected saltwater intrusion or encroachment.
- (3) Any current or projected sale of water for use outside of the state, including the amount of water so sold and the price paid by each out-of-state user.

Proposed law provides that for each of the districts created in proposed law, the governor is to appoint the members of each board by Oct. 15, 2026, and requires Senate confirmation of each member.

Proposed law provides that the terms of service for each commissioner appointed to the board is three years and further provides for procedures when there is a vacancy on the board.

Proposed law provides that members of parish governing authorities may serve as commissioners on district boards.

Proposed law establishes the Mississippi River Alluvial Groundwater Conservation district and a board to govern the district. Further provides that the membership of the board includes representative from the following:

- (1) Assumption Parish.
- (2) Avoyelles Parish.
- (3) Caldwell Parish.
- (4) Catahoula Parish.
- (5) Concordia Parish.
- (6) East Carroll Parish.
- (7) Franklin Parish.
- (8) Iberia Parish.
- (9) Iberville Parish.
- (10) LaSalle Parish.
- (11) Madison Parish.
- (12) Morehouse Parish.

- (13) Ouachita Parish.
- (14) Point Coupee Parish.
- (15) Richland Parish.
- (16) St. Landry Parish.
- (17) St. Martin Parish.
- (18) St. Mary Parish.
- (19) Tensas Parish.
- (20) West Baton Rouge Parish.
- (21) West Carroll Parish.
- (22) Three members to represent industrial and agricultural users within the district.
- (23) Six members to represent municipalities within the district that use at least 500,000 gallons per day.

Proposed law establishes the Chicot Groundwater Conservation district and a board to govern the district. Further provides that the membership of the board includes representative from the following:

- (1) Acadia Parish.
- (2) Allen Parish.
- (3) Beauregard Parish.
- (4) Calcasieu Parish.
- (5) Cameron Parish.
- (6) Evangeline Parish.
- (7) Iberia Parish.
- (8) Jefferson Davis Parish.
- (9) Lafayette Parish.
- (10) Rapides Parish.
- (11) St. Landry Parish.
- (12) Vermillion Parish.
- (13) Vernon Parish.
- (14) Three members to represent industrial and agricultural users within the district.
- (15) Six members to represent municipalities within the district that use at least 500,000 gallons per day.

Proposed law establishes the Southern Hills Groundwater Conservation district and a board to govern the district. Further provides that the membership of the board includes representative from the following:

- (1) Ascension Parish.
- (2) East Baton Rouge Parish.
- (3) East Feliciana Parish.
- (4) Jefferson Parish.
- (5) Lafourche Parish.
- (6) Livingston Parish.
- (7) Orleans Parish.

- (8) St. Charles Parish.
- (9) St. Helena Parish.
- (10) St. James Parish.
- (11) St. John the Baptist Parish.
- (12) St. Tammany Parish.
- (13) Tangipahoa Parish.
- (14) Washington Parish.
- (15) West Feliciana Parish.
- (14) Three members to represent industrial and agricultural users within the district.
- (15) Six members to represent municipalities within the district that use at least 500,000 gallons per day.

(Adds R.S. 38:2431-2466; Repeals R.S. 38:3087.131, 3087.133, and 3097.8(D))