
DIGEST

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HB 1209 Original

2026 Regular Session

Firment

Abstract: Provides legislative findings and intent, a sunset date for surface water withdrawal cooperative endeavor agreements, and for the secretary's consideration of potential introduction of invasive vegetation or wildlife species when entering agreements.

Present law provides for cooperative endeavor agreements to withdraw running surface water with requirement for the approval by the secretary and prohibition for the resale of withdrawn water, reserving the rights provided under present law and stating the intent of the legislature for severability of provisions.

Proposed law retains present law provisions and adds further legislative intent and findings to recognize the importance of the surface waters of the state on the economy and lives of La. residents and to acknowledge the impact to surface waters and the aquatic habitat of their withdrawal.

Present law provides for cooperative endeavor agreements to withdraw running surface water entered into pursuant to present law to have an initial term not to exceed two years and to be renewable in two-year increments.

Proposed law prohibits new agreements to be entered for which an application is received by the dept. after Dec. 31, 2026.

Proposed law retains the provision of present law for contracts to be renewed in two-year increments, but adds a required termination date of Dec. 31, 2036.

Present law provides for the secretary to consider the impact of entering withdrawal of surface water cooperative endeavor agreements on vegetation or wildlife.

Proposed law adds further specificity to present law impacts including the presence, proliferation, management, control, mitigation, and potential eradication of invasive aquatic vegetation and species such as giant salvinia, water hyacinth, hydrilla, alligator weed, and other invasive or noxious aquatic plants or organisms that may impair water flow, navigation, flood control, ecological balance, or public use of state waters.

(Amends R.S. 30:961; Adds R.S. 30:961(L))