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 331 Reengrossed 2026 Regular Session Owen

Present law creates the Natural and Scenic Rivers System to protect, conserve, and replenish state water bodies and designates certain rivers, streams, and bayous that are part of the system.

Present law prohibits channelization, clearing and snagging, channel realignment and reservoir construction on water bodies in the system.

Proposed law retains present law and creates certain exceptions and prohibitions for the portion of the West Pearl River and tributaries lying between Lock 1 and the Rigolets, from August 1, 2026, to August 1, 2031.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 56:1855(Q))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Natural Resources to the original bill

1. Reduce sunset period from 7 years to 5.

2. Add tributaries to defined area of river.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Remove reservoir construction from activities allowed or requiring a permit.

2. Prohibit new commercial or clustered residential development along a scenic river as provided under present law.