

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 802

BY REPRESENTATIVE SAWYER

WATER/RESOURCES: Provides with respect to the management of watershed restoration

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 38:3310, relative to watershed restoration and conservation; to create the
3 Watershed Restoration and Conservation Fund and establish its mechanism for
4 funding; to provide for the expenditures, administration, and reporting of the fund;
5 to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 38:3310 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §3310. Watershed Restoration and Conservation Fund

9 A. There is hereby established in the state treasury as a special fund the
10 Watershed Restoration and Conservation Fund, hereafter referred to in this Section
11 as "the fund".

12 B. The purpose of the fund shall be to support the reclamation, restoration,
13 and long-term stewardship of lands and watersheds within the Amite River Basin
14 impacted by sand and gravel mining operations, with priority given to flood-prone
15 areas and impaired watersheds.

16 C. After allocation of money to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund as
17 provided in Article VII, Section 9(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, the treasurer
18 shall deposit into the fund one hundred percent of the portion of recurring severance
19 tax revenues collected on sand severed from within the geographic boundaries of the
20 district that would have been deposited into the state general fund after allocations

1 of such revenues otherwise required by the Constitution of Louisiana and the
2 Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950. Monies designated for the fund and received
3 by the state treasurer from donations, gifts, grants, or other revenue shall be
4 deposited into the fund.

5 D. Monies in the fund shall be invested in the same manner as monies in the
6 state general fund. Interest earned on investment of monies in the fund shall be
7 credited to the fund. Unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end
8 of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund.

9 E. The board is authorized to use monies in the fund for any purpose
10 authorized in this Chapter.

11 F. An annual report detailing the receipts, expenditures, and funded activities
12 of the Watershed Restoration and Conservation Fund shall be submitted by the board
13 to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate
14 Committee on Natural Resources by March first of each calendar year.

15 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2026.

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)]

HB 802 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Sawyer

Abstract: Creates the Watershed Restoration and Conservation Fund and establishes its mechanism for funding, the purpose and authorized uses of the fund, and required reporting regarding the fund.

Proposed law establishes a Watershed Restoration and Conservation Fund to support the reclamation, restoration, and long-term stewardship of lands and watersheds within the Amite River Basin impacted by sand and gravel mining operations, with priority given to flood-prone areas and impaired watersheds.

Present law provides for allocation of severance tax revenues collected on sand.

Proposed law retains present law provisions and adds requirement for the treasurer to deposit into the fund 100% of the portion of recurring severance tax revenues collected on sand severed from within the boundaries of the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District that would have otherwise been deposited into the state general fund after the allocations of revenue required by present law.

Proposed law provides that monies in the fund be invested in the same manner as monies in the state general fund with interest earned on investment of monies in the fund credited to the fund and any unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the fiscal year remaining in the fund.

Present law authorizes the Amite River Basin Commission board to manage and control the watersheds within the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District to establish adequate drainage, flood control, and water resources development, including the construction of reservoirs, diversion canals, gravity and pumped drainage systems, and other flood control works.

Proposed law retains present law and authorizes the board of commissioners to use monies in the fund for any purpose authorized by present law.

Proposed law requires the board of commissioners to submit an annual report detailing the receipts, expenditures, and funded activities of the Watershed Restoration and Conservation Fund to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.

(Adds R.S. 38:3310)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to the original bill:

1. Move proposed law from Title 30 of the Revised Statutes to Chapter 16 of Title 38 of the Revised Statutes, which is the chapter of laws for the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District.
2. Limit the purpose of the fund to address only those watersheds within the Amite River Basin impacted by sand and gravel mining, rather than any watershed impacted by sand and gravel mining.
3. Remove gravel severance as a source of revenue for the fund.
4. Limit severance revenue deposited into the fund to the revenue collected from sand severed from within the geographic boundaries of the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District.
5. Remove a section of proposed law providing for entities that may be eligible to use the fund.
6. Authorize the Amite River Basin Commission to use the fund for any purpose authorized by present law regarding the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District.
7. Specify that the board of commissioners for the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District is responsible for submitting the report required by proposed law.
8. Change the author of the bill from Representative McMakin to Representative Sawyer.
9. Make technical changes.