

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. Monies in the fund shall be appropriated to the Coastal Protection and  
 10 Restoration Authority for use by the board of commissioners for the Amite River  
 11 Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District for use as provided in Subsection  
 12 B of this Section.

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

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

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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 802 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Sawyer

**Abstract:** Establishes the Watershed Restoration and Conservation Fund (fund) and provides for the deposit, use, and investment of monies in the fund. Further establishes reporting requirements regarding deposit and use of monies in the fund.

Proposed law establishes the 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 (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 board of the Amite River Basin Commission (board) to manage and control the watersheds within the 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.

Proposed law requires appropriation of monies in the fund to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority for disbursement to the board of the district for use as provided in present and proposed law.

Proposed law requires the board to submit an annual report detailing the receipts, expenditures, and funded activities of the 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.

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the engrossed bill:

1. Require appropriation of fund monies to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority for distribution to the district board for use as provided in present and proposed law.