
DIGEST

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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.