
DIGEST

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HB 1209 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Firment

Abstract: Provides legislative findings and intent, a sunset date for surface water withdrawal cooperative endeavor agreements, for the secretary's consideration of potential introduction of invasive vegetation or wildlife species when entering agreements, and for reporting of revenue deposited to and spent from the Aquatic Plant Control Dedicated Fund Account to appropriate committees.

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to withdraw running surface water with requirement for the approval by the secretary and prohibition for the resale of withdrawn water, reserving the rights provided under present law and stating the intent of the legislature for severability of provisions.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 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, 2027.

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 stream or water flow energy, sediment load and distribution, navigation, aquatic life, and other vegetation or wildlife.

Proposed law adds provision for the secretary to account for the effect of any proposed contract, agreement, or project on 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.

Present law provides for funds collected for the withdrawal of surface water to be deposited into the

Aquatic Plant Control Dedicated Fund Account and to be used for the treatment of aquatic weed with preference given to the body of water from which revenue was generated.

Proposed law retains provisions for collecting funds and depositing them into the Aquatic Plant Control Dedicated Fund Account, but removes the preference provision and adds reporting requirement for certain data, including collection and expenditure of the funds, to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.

(Amends R.S. 30:961)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Clarify that monies in the Aquatic Plant Control Dedicated Fund Account must be used for the management, control, mitigation, and eradication of invasive aquatic vegetation and species throughout the state, as determined by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries based on priority and scientific assessment.
2. Add requirement for annual reporting of data to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources to include:
 - a. The number of active cooperative endeavor agreements.
 - b. The volume of water authorized and withdrawn under agreements.
 - c. The total revenue generated under the agreement.
 - d. Monies deposited into the Aquatic Plant Control Dedicated Fund.
 - e. A summary of the expenditures for aquatic vegetation management.
 - f. Identification of agreements using nonmonetary consideration.
3. Make technical changes.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Change the prohibition deadline for new agreements to be entered for which an application is received by the department from December 31, 2026, to December 31, 2027.
2. Clarify language to provide for additional consideration by the secretary to account for the effect of any proposed contract, agreement, or project on 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.

3. Make technical changes.