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DIGEST

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SB 379 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Hensgens

Present law establishes the Dept. of Conservation and Energy and provides for jurisdiction, duties, and powers of the department and the secretary. Provides for the office of mineral resources.

Proposed law retains present law and changes the office of mineral resources to the office of state resources, changes references to the former position of commissioner of conservation to the secretary of the Dept. of Conservation and Energy, and other technical corrections.

Present law authorizes the State Mineral and Energy Board to lease state property for mineral exploration and alternative energy, such as solar, wind, geothermal, and hydrokinetic.

Proposed law clarifies that leases of state and other public lands may be for development and production of minerals, oil, gas, or alternative energy sources and as provided in present law.

Present law sets up a process for application, inspection, advertisement, and bids for leases. Other political subdivisions, such as ports and school boards, may ask the board to lease for them.

Present law limits minimum royalties for such leases, other than for school boards, to 1/8th for oil, gas, sulphur, and potash, and 1/20th for lignite and salt.

Proposed law allows the board to set royalties at less than 1/8th but greater than 1/16th upon a finding that market conditions, commodity prices, or other economic factors warrant the reduction.

Present law provides for the investment by the state treasurer of monies within funds under the control of the Natural Resources Trust Authority, including the Natural Resources Financial Security Fund, the Mineral and Energy Operation Fund, and the Carbon Dioxide Geologic Storage Trust Fund.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law authorizes the treasurer to invest monies in these funds according to present law or in the Louisiana Asset Management Pool.

Proposed law removes the treasurer's authority to invest trust authority funds in the Louisiana Asset Management Pool and instead authorizes the treasurer to invest the monies in separate portfolios.

Present law provides a process for judicial review of administrative decisions, including time delays for filing a suit for review.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that the time delays for filing a suit for review will start tolling from the date that an administrative decision is posted to the department's website.

Proposed law further provides that any third party with an interest in the underlying administrative decision has a right to intervene in the suit for review.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 30:3(7), 4(C)(14), (D)(1)(a) and (5), (G), and (I)(2), 5(C)(1), (C)(2)(intro para), and (6), and (D)(1), 5.1(A)(1) and (B)(1), 6.1(A) and (C), 12(A)(2), 21.1(A)(3) and (D)(5), 23(D)(2), 26, 29(A) and (I)(4), 73(1), 74(A)(3) and (B), 98.3(B), 101.2(A), 101.5(A), 127(A), 136.3(B)(1) and (C), 153(A), 548(intro para), 917(F), 1110(A)(2) and (C)(1)(f) and (g), R.S. 36:356.1(D) and 358(B), (E)(2), and (G) and R.S. 49:214.35(B), (E), and (F); Adds R.S. 30:12(A)(3), 84(A)(9) and (10), and 2050.22(C) and R.S. 49:214.35(G) and 978.1(A)(3); Repeals R.S. 30:4(O)(3), 85, and 101.6)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Authorizes the State Mineral and Energy Board to lease with less than a 1/8th royalty in certain circumstances.
2. Provides for the purposes of the State Mineral and Energy Board to lease other agencies' land.
3. Make technical changes.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Make technical changes to Title 30 to align with 2025 reorganization bill.
2. Change references to commissioner of conservation to secretary.
3. Change office of mineral resources to office of state resources.
4. Provide for funds from royalty field audit collections to be deposited into the Mineral and Energy Operation Fund.
5. Remove confirmation of directors appointed by the secretary.
6. Recognize name change from the Center for Energy Studies to the Energy Institute.
7. Make technical corrections.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Add provisions regarding judicial review of administrative decisions, including the delay for filing a suit for review, posting of reviewable department actions on the department website, and the right of certain third parties to intervene in the suit for review.
2. Authorize the state treasurer to invest monies in departmental funds in separate portfolios.
3. Add an effective date upon the governor's signature.
4. Make technical changes.