

SENATE SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 379

2026 Regular Session

Hensgens

KEYWORD AND SUMMARY AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE

NATURAL RESOURCES DEPT. Provides for the Department of Conservation and Energy.
(gov sig)

SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO THE SENATE BILL

1. Clarifies provisions regarding judicial review of administrative decisions, including delays 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.
2. Authorizes the state treasurer to invest monies in departmental funds in separate portfolios.
3. Makes effective date upon the governor's signature or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.
4. Makes technical changes.

DIGEST OF THE SENATE BILL AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE

DIGEST

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)

Angela L. De Jean
Senate Counsel