

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 673 (HB 802)

2026 Regular Session

Sawyer

New law establishes the Watershed Restoration and Conservation 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.

Existing law provides for allocation of severance tax revenues collected on sand.

New law retains existing 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 existing law.

New 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.

Existing 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. New law retains existing law.

New 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 existing and new law.

New 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.

Effective July 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 38:3310)