AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 30:124, relative to the State Mineral and Energy Board; to provide for alternate energy resources; to authorize the State Mineral and Energy Board to lease state lands for the exploration, development, and production of energy from alternative energy resources; to provide definitions, terms, and conditions; to provide for rulemaking authority; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 30:124 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§124. Board may lease public lands; fee

A. The legislature finds that the state, through the Department of Natural Resources, should promote the generation and use of alternative energy sources, including but not limited to wind energy, geothermal energy, solar energy, and hydrokinetic energy, throughout the state to ensure the viability of the state's natural resources, to provide a continuing utility-scale clean energy source for the citizens and businesses of Louisiana, to support economic development through job retention and creation in Louisiana, and to promote a clean environment.

B. The State Mineral and Energy Board, hereinafter referred to as the "board", has authority to lease for the development and production of minerals, oil, and gas, or alternative energy sources, any lands belonging to the state, or the title to which is in the public, including road beds, water bottoms, vacant state lands, and lands adjudicated to the state at tax sale. The board, in consultation with the Department of Transportation and Development, shall adopt rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the provisions of this Subpart.
C. As used in this Section, "alternative energy sources" means energy sources other than oil, gas, and other liquid, solid, or gaseous minerals. It shall include, but not be limited to, wind energy, geothermal energy, solar energy, and hydrokinetic energy. It shall not include the cultivation or harvesting of biomass fuels or the use of state land or water bottoms for facilities which utilize biomass fuel to produce energy.

D. No lease shall be granted for hydrokinetic energy development that is inconsistent with the terms of a preliminary permit, license, exemption, or other authorization issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission pursuant to its authority under the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791a, et seq.

E. The mineral board is further authorized to collect a fee for such leasing in the amount of ten percent of the total cash bonus paid at the lease sale. The fee shall be in addition to the total cash bonus paid.

Section 2. This Act shall take effect and become operative if and when the Act which originated as Senate Bill No. 183 of this 2010 Regular Session of the Legislature is enacted and becomes effective.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: ____________________

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.