

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 501

BY REPRESENTATIVE BISHOP

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

ENVIRONMENT/LITTERING: Transfers the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission to the Department of Education

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 30:2503(A)(1) and (C)(2), 2504(2) and (7), 2506(A) and (B)(4), and 2517(A)(introductory paragraph), to enact R.S. 30:2522 and R.S. 36:651(CC), and to repeal R.S. 36:610(B)(10) and R.S. 56:10(B)(15), relative to the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission; to provide for the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission; to provide for the transfer of the commission to the Department of Education; to provide for duties and responsibilities; to provide for definitions; to provide for staff; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 30:2503(A)(1) and (C)(2), 2504(2) and (7), 2506(A) and (B)(4), and 2517(A)(introductory paragraph) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 30:2522 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2503. Louisiana Environmental Education Commission; creation; membership; duties

A.(1) There is hereby created, within the Department of ~~Wildlife and Fisheries~~ Education, the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission, hereinafter referred to as the "commission".

* * *

C. The commission shall:

1 * * *

2 (2) Advise and assist the ~~secretary of the Department of Wildlife and~~
3 ~~Fisheries~~ state superintendent of education, the governor, the legislature, the
4 secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, and other state agencies,
5 including university extension services, conservation and environmental
6 organizations, community action groups, and nature and environmental centers on
7 policies and practices needed to provide environmental education.

8 * * *

9 §2504. Definitions

10 As used in this Part, the following words have the meanings ascribed to them
11 unless the context requires otherwise:

12 * * *

13 (2) "Department" means the Department of ~~Wildlife and Fisheries~~
14 Education.

15 * * *

16 (7) "Section" means the environmental education and litter reduction section
17 located within and acting through the Department of ~~Wildlife and Fisheries~~
18 Education.

19 * * *

20 §2506. Environmental Education and Litter Reduction Section; staff; powers and
21 duties; cooperation; funding

22 A. There is hereby created, within the Department of ~~Wildlife and Fisheries,~~
23 ~~office of wildlife~~ Education, the environmental education and litter reduction section
24 which shall assist the commission and perform responsibilities relative to education
25 and litter control as provided for in this Chapter. Insofar as funds are appropriated,
26 staff may be employed under the direction and control of the secretary and in
27 accordance with policies of the department.

28 B. The section shall implement the provisions of this Part relative to
29 environmental education, including the following:

1 * * *

2 (4) Promote and aid in the establishment and assessment of elementary and
3 secondary school environmental education programs ~~through cooperation with the~~
4 ~~Department of Education and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.~~

5 * * *

6 §2517. Curriculum framework

7 A. The commission shall ~~work with the Department of Education to~~ develop
8 a curriculum framework for establishing environmental education programs in all
9 public and private elementary and secondary schools. The program shall integrate
10 environmental concepts and skills into regular curricula, which include:

11 * * *

12 ~~(R.S. 56:10(B)(15))~~ §2522. Litter Abatement and Education Fund

13 ~~(a) A.~~ A. There is hereby created ~~within the Conservation Fund a special~~
14 ~~account known as the "litter abatement and education account"~~ the Litter Abatement
15 and Education Fund which, notwithstanding any other provision of law to the
16 contrary, shall consist of donations collected from the sale of the environmental
17 education license plate provided for in R.S. 47:463.43; revenue received by the
18 Conservation Fund from the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of
19 motor vehicles as provided in R.S. 32:412; revenue received by the Conservation
20 Fund from fines for violations of the provisions of Part I of Chapter 21 of Subtitle
21 II of Title 30 as provided in R.S. 30:2531 and 2532; funds from public or private
22 donations and any other source which may specify deposit to this account; and any
23 remaining balance in the Louisiana Environmental Education Fund as of August 15,
24 2011. The revenues shall be subject to the same requirements as provided for other
25 revenues placed in the Conservation Fund in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

26 ~~(b) B.~~ B. The funds in this account shall be used solely for the following:

27 ~~(i) (1)~~ (i) (1) To develop, review, approve, and implement a plan for statewide
28 environmental education.

29 ~~(ii) (2)~~ (ii) (2) To provide for environmental education grant programs in the state.

Present law creates the "litter abatement and education account" within the Conservation Fund that is funded from donations from the sale of the environmental education license plate, revenue from the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, litter fines, and from public and private donations.

Proposed law retains present law except creates the Litter Abatement and Education Fund.

Present law provides the funds can be used solely for environmental education and litter abatement programs. Proposed law retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 30:2503(A)(1) and (C)(2), 2504(2) and (7), 2506(A) and (B)(4), and 2517(A)(intro. para.); Adds R.S. 30:2522 and R.S. 36:651(CC); Repeals R.S. 36:610(B)(10) and R.S. 56:10(B)(15))