

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 267

BY REPRESENTATIVE WHEAT

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

ENVIRONMENT: Places a moratorium on carbon dioxide sequestration projects on Lake Maurepas and the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 30:1112, relative to a moratorium on carbon dioxide sequestration; to provide
3 for a moratorium on carbon dioxide sequestration and transportation for
4 sequestration on Lake Maurepas and the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management
5 Area; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. Lake Maurepas and the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area are
8 of particular value to the state for their scenic beauty, delicate estuary, and spawning grounds
9 for aquatic species, as well as their use for recreation and commercial fisheries and the
10 natural buffer the swamp can provide against hurricane winds and storm surge. The
11 importance of the area to the state is underscored by the Coastal Protection and Restoration
12 Authority plans to undertake a two hundred million dollar river reintroduction project to
13 revitalize forty-five thousand acres of the Maurepas Swamp. Moreover, this area is
14 prominent for hunting and trapping, fishing and boating, camping, birding, wildlife viewing,
15 and hiking. As such, the protections of the public trust doctrine, Article IX, Section 1 of the
16 Constitution of Louisiana, which is designed to preserve these very areas, should be honored
17 and respected. The legislature hereby finds that Lake Maurepas and the Maurepas Swamp
18 Wildlife Management Area should be afforded such protection against interference from
19 new and untested industries to ensure the success of the river reintroduction project and the
20 survival of this natural resource and the ecosystem it supports.

1 Section 2. R.S. 30:1112 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

2 §1112. Moratorium; Lake Maurepas and Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management

3 Area

4 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, there is hereby

5 declared a moratorium on the geologic sequestration of carbon dioxide and the

6 transportation of carbon dioxide through pipelines for geologic sequestration on or

7 beneath Lake Maurepas and the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area which

8 shall remain in effect for ten years from the effective date of this Section.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 267 Original

2023 Regular Session

Wheat

Abstract: Establishes a ten year moratorium on carbon dioxide sequestration wells and pipelines on Lake Maurepas and the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area.

Proposed law prohibits geologic sequestration of carbon dioxide, and the use of pipelines for the same, on or beneath Lake Maurepas and the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area for a period of 10 years.

(Adds R.S. 30:1112)