

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 156

BY SENATOR STINE

WILD REFUGES/PRESERVES. Renames the Rockefeller Refuge and Game Preserve and associated funds. (See Act)

1 AN ACT
2 To amend and reenact R.S. 39:100.116(A)(5) and 1763(2), R.S. 49:149.35, and R.S.
3 56:797(A),(B), (C), (D)(5), (6), and (7), and (E)(1), to provide for wildlife refuges
4 and game preserves; to rename the Rockefeller Foundation Wildlife Refuge and
5 Game Preserve; to rename the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve
6 Fund; to rename the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Trust and Protection Fund; to
7 provide for the duties and authorities of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries
8 Commission and the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; and to
9 provide for related matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 39:100.116(A)(5) and 1763(2) are hereby amended and reenacted to
12 read as follows:

13 §100.116. Dedication of mineral revenues

14 A. All mineral revenues as defined in Subsection D of this Section received
15 in each fiscal year by the state as a result of the production of or exploration for
16 minerals, hereinafter referred to as mineral revenues, shall be allocated as provided
17 in this Section after the following allocations and deposits of mineral revenues have

1 to such fund equals the sum of fifty million dollars.

2 B. The remaining revenues comprising the said ~~Rockefeller~~ **Grand Chenier**
3 Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund and all income earned from investments
4 of such revenues, shall be used first, for the purpose of paying the costs of
5 maintenance, policing, and improving the said wildlife refuge and preserve, and the
6 development of conditions suitable for improving such wildlife refuge and preserve,
7 and any surplus of revenues derived from said mineral development or production
8 on ~~Rockefeller~~ **Grand Chenier** Wildlife Refuge shall be used by the Department of
9 Wildlife and Fisheries in wildlife management programs and activities, particularly
10 land acquisition throughout the state.

11 C. The state treasurer shall invest the principal and the undistributed return
12 on the principal deposited in the ~~Rockefeller~~ **Grand Chenier** Wildlife Refuge Trust
13 and Protection Fund for the purpose of achieving perpetual financing of the fund.
14 Such investments may include, among others authorized by law, investments
15 permitted for the Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund, also known as the Kevin
16 P. Reilly Sr. Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund, as set forth in R.S.
17 17:3803(B), (D), and (E).

18 D. Investment income from said trust and protection fund shall be allocated
19 annually, even during the period that the fund is being increased to the fifty million
20 dollar level, as follows:

21 * * *

22 (5) Until the principal in the ~~Rockefeller~~ **Grand Chenier** Wildlife Refuge
23 Trust and Protection Fund reaches fifty million dollars, one hundred fifty thousand
24 dollars to the Louisiana Fur and Alligator Advisory Council to accomplish the
25 specific goals listed in R.S. 56:279(B).

26 (6) If revenue available from the ~~Rockefeller~~ **Grand Chenier** Wildlife
27 Refuge and Game Preserve Fund is not sufficient to cover the cost of maintenance,
28 policing, and improving the said wildlife refuge and preserve, and the development
29 of conditions suitable for improving such wildlife refuge and preserve, any

1 investment income needed from the trust and protection fund shall be made available
2 to fulfill said needs, subject only to appropriation by the legislature. Use of the funds
3 for such purposes shall take precedence over any other purpose provided in this
4 Section.

5 (7) However, as a one time allocation, three hundred fifty thousand dollars
6 to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for an initial design of a nature trail and
7 visitor's center at the ~~Rockefeller~~ **Grand Chenier** Wildlife Refuge and Game
8 Preserve.

9 E.(1) The investment income from said trust and protection fund remaining
10 after the annual allocations provided for in this Section shall be added to the trust and
11 protection fund. When the principal amount credited to the ~~Rockefeller~~ **Grand**
12 **Chenier** Wildlife Refuge Trust and Protection Fund reaches an amount equal to the
13 sum of fifty million dollars, the proceeds derived from interest earned on investment
14 of the principal shall, subject to all prior annual transfers of funds provided for by
15 this Section, be allocated by the state treasurer in accordance with legislative
16 appropriation to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to be used by said
17 department first solely to defray the expense of maintaining, policing, and improving
18 the ~~Rockefeller Foundation~~ **Grand Chenier** Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve and
19 for the development of conditions suitable for improving said wildlife refuge and
20 game preserve.

21 * * *

22 Section 4. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the secretary of the
23 Department of Wildlife and Fisheries shall promulgate any rule, regulation, or order
24 reasonably necessary to effectuate the renaming of the Rockefeller Foundation Wildlife
25 Refuge and Game Preserve to the Grand Chenier Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve, the
26 Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund to the Grand Chenier Wildlife Refuge
27 and Game Preserve Fund, and the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Trust and Protection Fund
28 to the Grand Chenier Wildlife Refuge Trust and Protection Fund.

29 Section 5. This Act shall take effect and become operative if and when the proposed

1 amendment of Article VII, Section 10.16(A)(5) and 14(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana
 2 contained in the Act which originated as Senate Bill No. NUMBER of this 2024 Regular
 3 Session of the Legislature is adopted at the statewide election to be held on November 5,
 4 2024, and becomes effective.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Tyler S. McCloud.

	DIGEST	
SB 156 Original	2024 Regular Session	Stine

Present law creates and provides for the Rockefeller Foundation Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve, the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Game Preserve Fund, and the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Trust and Protection Fund.

Proposed law renames the Rockefeller Foundation Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve to the Grand Chenier Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve, the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund to the Grand Chenier Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund and the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Trust and Protection Fund to the Grand Chenier Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund.

(Amends R.S. 39:100.116(A)(5) and 1763(2), R.S. 49:149.35, and R.S. 56:797(A),(B), (C), (D)(5), (6), and (7), and (E)(1))