

2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 124

BY SENATOR OWEN

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

WATER/WATERWAYS. Provides relative to the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act. (8/1/25)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 56:1847(3), to enact R.S. 56:1855(Q), and to repeal R.S. 56:1847(43) through (49), (54), (75), and (64), relative to the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act; to provide for natural and scenic rivers; to provide for exceptions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 56:1847(3) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 56:1855(Q) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1847. Natural and scenic rivers

The following rivers or designated segments thereof are hereby designated as being natural and scenic rivers:

* * *

(3) Tchefuncte River ~~and its tributaries~~ - Washington, Tangipahoa, St. Tammany - From its origin in Tangipahoa Parish to ~~its juncture with the Bogue Falaya River~~ **Lake Ponchartrain**.

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§1855. Exceptions

* * *

Q. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law to the contrary, beginning August 1, 2025, through August 1, 2033, no provision of this Part shall:

(1) Prohibit the channelization, clearing and snagging, channel realignment, reservoir construction, or dredging operations for drainage purposes in the West Pearl River from Lock 1 to the Rigolets.

(2) Require a permit pursuant to R.S. 56:1849 for the channelization, clearing and snagging, channel realignment, reservoir construction, or dredging operations for drainage purposes in the West Pearl River from Lock 1 to the Rigolets.

Section 2. R.S. 56:1847(43) through (49), (54), (75), and (64) are hereby repealed.

Section 3. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized and directed to renumber the paragraphs in R.S. 56:1847.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST

SB 124 Original

2025 Regular Session

Owen

Present law creates the Natural and Scenic Rivers System to protect, conserve, and replenish state water bodies and designates certain rivers, streams, and bayous that are part of the system.

Proposed law retains present law and removes the following water bodies in St. Tammany Parish from the system: Holmes Bayou, Bradley Slough (Bayou), Wilson Slough (Bayou), Morgan River, Bayou LaCombe, Bayou Cane, Bayou Chinchuba, and Bayou Liberty.

Present law prohibits channelization, clearing and snagging, channel realignment and reservoir construction on water bodies in the system.

Proposed law retains present law and creates certain exceptions for the portion of the West Pearl River lying between Lock 1 and the Rigolets, from August 1, 2025, to August 1, 2033.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 56:1847(3); adds R.S. 56:1855(Q); repeals R.S. 56:1847(43)-(49), (54), (57), and (64))