

**SENATE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS**

2026 Regular Session

Amendments proposed by Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to Original Senate Bill No. 171 by Senator Pressly

1 AMENDMENT NO. 1

2 On page 1, delete lines 3 and 4 and insert "2352, 2353(B), 2354(A)(1), (B)(1) and (4),  
3 (D)(1), and (E)(1), 2355(A)(1) through (4), (B)(6) and (10), and (C), the introductory  
4 paragraph of 2356(A), 2356(A)(2), and (B)(2) and (5), and (C), 2358, 2359(B), (D)(2), and  
5 (E)(1)(a), and 2360(C) and to repeal R.S. 38:2353(D),"

6 AMENDMENT NO. 2

7 On page 1, delete lines 10 through 13 and insert the following:  
8 "Section 1. R.S. 38:5.1(A), 20(A) and (B), 84(A) and (B), 2351(A) and (B), 2352,  
9 2353(B), 2354(A)(1), (B)(1) and (4), (D)(1), and (E)(1), 2355(A)(1) through (4), (B)(6) and  
10 (10), and (C), the introductory paragraph of 2356(A), 2356(A)(2), and (B)(2) and (5), and  
11 (C), 2358, 2359(B), (D)(2), and (E)(1)(a), and 2360(C) are hereby amended and reenacted  
12 to read as follows:"

13 AMENDMENT NO. 3

14 On page 3, line 8, after "For" delete "upland" and insert "upland noncoastal"

15 AMENDMENT NO. 4

16 On page 4, line 2, after "in the" delete "upland" and insert "upland non coastal"

17 AMENDMENT NO. 5

18 On page 4, delete line 21 and insert the following:  
19 "(2) "Upland Noncoastal area" means all land in the state of Louisiana that  
20 is not included within the coastal area as defined in R.S. 49:214.2.  
21 (3) "Upland Noncoastal parishes" means all parishes of the state, in whole  
22 or in part, that are not included within the coastal area as defined in R.S. 49:214.2.  
23 These areas are primarily affected by riverine flooding, watershed management,  
24 inland navigation, and flood control infrastructure rather than coastal erosion or sea  
25 level rise.

26 AMENDMENT NO. 6

27 On page 4, delete lines 25 through 29 and on page 5, delete lines 1 through 11 and insert the  
28 following:

29 ~~"B.(1) The Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy,~~  
30 ~~Navigation, and Transportation Authority Board shall consist of no more than sixteen~~  
31 ~~members, selected by the governor, representing the following:~~  
32 ~~(a) The Red River Waterway District, nominated by the commission.~~  
33 ~~(b) The office of multimodal commerce. The commissioner shall serve until,~~  
34 ~~or without, express gubernatorial designation of an alternative.~~  
35 ~~(c) Statewide flood protection. The chief resiliency officer shall serve until,~~  
36 ~~or without, express gubernatorial designation of an alternative.~~  
37 ~~(d) Louisiana Economic Development. The secretary of the department shall~~  
38 ~~serve until, or without, express gubernatorial designation of an alternative.~~  
39 ~~(e) The North Louisiana Economic Partnership. The executive director shall~~  
40 ~~serve until, or without, express gubernatorial designation of an alternative.~~

~~(f) The Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. The lieutenant governor shall serve until, or without, express gubernatorial designation of an alternative.~~

~~(g) Ports, located within the upland parishes, whole or in part.~~

~~(h) A levee board located within the upland parishes, whole or in part.~~

~~(i) Duly elected members of the executive branch of local government located within the upland parishes, whole or in part.~~

~~(j) The Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The commissioner shall serve until, or without, express gubernatorial designation of an alternative.~~

~~(k) Industry operating and located within the upland parishes, whole or in part. The executive directors of the Red River Valley Association and Ouachita River Valley Association, shall serve until, or without, express gubernatorial designation of an alternative.~~

~~(l) The Tensas Basin Levee District, nominated by the Tensas Basin Levee District.~~

~~(2) The board shall not consist of more than two port directors and no more than two levee boards.~~

**B.(1)The Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and Transportation Authority Board also known as "C.U.R.R.E.N.T." shall consist of sixteen members as follows:**

**(a) The lieutenant governor, or his designee, shall serve as representative of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.**

**(b) The commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, or his designee.**

**(c) A member appointed by the governor who shall serve as chairman of the board.**

**(d) The executive director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Advisory Board or the gubernatorial designee for this appointee shall be a nonvoting member.**

**(e) The commissioner of the office of multimodal commerce, Department of Transportation and Development.**

**(f) Statewide flood protection chief resiliency officer.**

**(g) A duly elected member of the executive branch of local government located within the noncoastal parishes, whole or in part.**

**(h) Two members nominated from a levee district located within the noncoastal parishes, whole or in part.**

**(i) A member nominated from Tensas Basin Levee District.**

**(j) A member of the Red River Waterway District, nominated by the commission.**

**(k) The executive director of the Red River Valley Association.**

**(l) The executive director of Ouachita River Valley Association.**

**(m)The executive director of the North Louisiana Economic Partnership.**

**(n) Two members from ports located within the noncoastal parishes, whole or in part.**

**(2) The members appointed pursuant to Paragraph (1)(c) through (n) of this Subsection shall serve as members of the board unless express gubernatorial designation of an alternative and shall be subject to Senate confirmation.**

**(3) The board shall consist of no more than two representatives from ports and no more than three representatives from levee districts.**

\* \* \*

AMENDMENT NO. 7

On page 5, between lines 24 and 25, insert the following:

"B. The board shall develop the master and annual plans in accordance with the following procedure:

(1) The board shall conduct not less than three public hearings in separate locations in the ~~upland~~ **noncoastal** parishes for the purpose of receiving comments and recommendations from the public and elected officials. All public hearings must be held at least sixty days prior to the submission of the plans to the legislature.

\* \* \*

1 (4) At least seven days prior to each hearing the board shall publish a notice  
2 of the hearing in the official journal of each parish within the area of the hearing. The  
3 notice of a hearing shall have been published in the official journal of each parish in  
4 the upland noncoastal area prior to the final scheduled public hearing. The board  
5 may provide for additional public hearings when necessary upon at least three days  
6 notice published in the official journal of the parishes in the area of the hearing and  
7 written notice to the parish governing authorities.

8 \* \* \*

9 D.(1) Where feasible, the master plan shall include scientific data and other  
10 reasons, including but not limited to the social, geographic, economic, engineering,  
11 and biological considerations as to why each project or program was selected for  
12 inclusion. Specifically, an explanation shall be included as to how each project or  
13 program advances the plan objectives with respect to the protection, conservation,  
14 enhancement, and development of the upland noncoastal area.

15 \* \* \*

16 E.(1) After adoption by the board, the master plan shall be submitted to the  
17 ~~House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee~~  
18 ~~on Natural Resources and the~~ House Committee on Transportation, Highways and  
19 Public Works and the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public  
20 Works meeting jointly for approval. In addition, the annual plan shall be submitted  
21 to the ~~House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate~~  
22 ~~Committee on Natural Resources and the~~ House Committee on Transportation,  
23 Highways and Public Works and the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways  
24 and Public Works on or before the fifteenth day of the regular legislative session of  
25 each year. The committees shall take action on the annual plan on or before June first  
26 of each calendar year.

27 \* \* \*

28 §2355. Functions and responsibilities; Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation,  
29 Economy, Navigation, and Transportation Authority Board

30 A. The board shall:

31 (1) Represent the state's position on policy relative to the protection,  
32 conservation, enhancement, and management of the upland noncoastal area of the  
33 state through oversight of integrated projects and programs and by addressing  
34 activities which could significantly affect integrated projects and programs, all  
35 consistent with the legislative intent as expressed in this Title.

36 (2) Develop, coordinate, make reports on, and provide oversight for a  
37 comprehensive upland noncoastal area master plan and annual plans, working in  
38 conjunction with state agencies, political subdivisions, including flood protection  
39 authorities, levee districts, and federal agencies. The master plan shall include a  
40 comprehensive strategy addressing the protection, conservation, enhancement, and  
41 management of the upland area through the construction and management of  
42 integrated projects and programs, all consistent with the legislative intent as  
43 expressed in this Chapter. The annual plan shall be developed as the annual  
44 implementation of the comprehensive master plan and shall be submitted to the  
45 legislature for approval as set forth in R.S. 38:2354. The annual plan shall include  
46 a description and status of all projects and programs pertaining to the authority's  
47 mission, including privately funded projects or plans, and addressing those activities  
48 which significantly affect projects set forth in the plan, all consistent with the  
49 legislative intent as expressed in this Title.

50 (3) Submit to the ~~House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment~~  
51 ~~and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the~~ House Committee on  
52 Transportation, Highways and Public Works and the Senate Committee on  
53 Transportation, Highways and Public Works meeting jointly, the integrated plans  
54 developed pursuant to R.S. 38:2354. Upon approval of the plans by the legislative  
55 committees and prior to implementation of the plans, in whole or in part, the plans  
56 shall be approved by the legislature as provided in R.S. 38:2354(E).

57 (4) Develop procedures in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act  
58 and take actions against any entity, including political subdivisions, to enforce  
59 compliance with the comprehensive master upland noncoastal area plan. Such  
60 procedures and actions may include but are not limited to determinations of  
61 noncompliance; appeal from such determinations; the taking of administrative

1 action, including the withholding of funds; and civil action, including the seeking of  
2 injunctive relief, or any other remedy necessary to ensure compliance with the plan.

3 \* \* \*

4 B. The board may:

5 \* \* \*

6 (6) Approve all requests for programs and projects in the **upland noncoastal**  
7 area, insofar as such requests are for funds to be appropriated from the funds  
8 available to the authority.

9 \* \* \*

10 (10) Enter into any agreement with a parish governing authority located  
11 wholly or partially within the coastal area but which is not part of a levee district for  
12 the construction, operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of any  
13 **upland noncoastal** protection, conservation and restoration, hurricane protection,  
14 infrastructure, storm damage reduction, integrated coastal protection, or flood control  
15 project. The board shall have the power to provide in the agreement for the use and  
16 exercise by the parish governing authority of all powers of levee districts or levee  
17 and drainage districts.

18 C. Approval by the board shall be required for any request by a state agency  
19 or department for any funds to finance research, programs, mitigation, or projects  
20 involving integrated protection, including hurricane protection or the conservation  
21 and restoration, of **upland noncoastal** areas. However, this Subsection shall not  
22 affect self-generated or dedicated funds.

23 \* \* \*"

24 AMENDMENT NO. 8

25 On page 5, after line 29, insert the following:

26 " \* \* \*

27 (2) ~~Serve as the implementation arm of the Statewide Flood Control Program~~  
28 ~~in R.S. 38:90.1 et seq., and for other functions of the department outside of the~~  
29 ~~coastal area. The authority shall be~~ **Be** directed by the policy set by the Coordinated  
30 Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and Transportation  
31 Authority Board."  
32

33 AMENDMENT NO. 9

34 On page 6, between line 10 and 11 insert the following:

35 "(5) The executive director, or in his discretion a subordinate or subordinates,  
36 shall administer the programs, projects, and activities approved for funding by the  
37 Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and  
38 Transportation Authority Board relating to and affecting an integrated **upland**  
39 **noncoastal** system, including conservation, restoration, creation, and enhancement  
40 of **upland noncoastal** areas, storm damage reduction, flood control, infrastructure,  
41 economic development, and navigation in Louisiana's ~~uplands area~~ **noncoastal**  
42 **areas** as provided by law and as provided in the master and annual plans, and other  
43 special programs as may be directed by the board.

44 \* \* \*

45 C. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to diminish or impair the  
46 constitutional, statutory, or contractual authority of any levee district, drainage  
47 district, navigation district, or port commission operating within the **upland**  
48 **noncoastal** area. The authority shall coordinate with such entities to the greatest  
49 extent practicable."

50 AMENDMENT NO. 10

51 On page 6, line 19, after "within the" delete "upland" and insert "**upland noncoastal**"

52 AMENDMENT NO. 11

53 On page 6, after line 20, insert the following:

1 "§2359.Functions and responsibilities; Coordinated Use of Resources for  
2 Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and Transportation Authority

3 \* \* \*

4 B. The authority shall implement projects in the ~~upland~~ **noncoastal** area as  
5 approved by the board and consistent with the legislative intent of this Chapter.  
6 However, no project shall be undertaken except those included in an annual plan  
7 finally approved by the legislature in accordance with the provisions of R.S.  
8 38:2354, regardless of the source of funds for the project, except in cases of projects  
9 undertaken and financed out of the emergency fund, established in the annual plan.  
10 An emergency for which such fund shall be used shall be defined by the Coordinated  
11 Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and Transportation  
12 Authority Board and all funds shall be spent only in accord with procedures  
13 established by the authority board for such fund. All projects undertaken pursuant  
14 to the provisions of this Chapter shall be either funded through the Statewide Flood  
15 Program, the state general fund, or other sources of funding available to the  
16 authority, including but not limited to direct federal aid, grants, gifts, and other  
17 donations received by the state for the purposes of this Chapter.

18 \* \* \*

19 D. The authority may:

20 \* \* \*

21 (2) Acquire by purchase, donation, or otherwise any land rights needed for  
22 integrated ~~upland~~ **noncoastal** area projects and other property required for the  
23 operation of the projects that are to be owned and operated by the office or political  
24 subdivision of the state; provided, that any property acquired for any project may  
25 reserve the minerals to the landowners, whether private or public, in accordance with  
26 the provisions of R.S. 31:149.

27 \* \* \*

28 E.(1) The board or the authority shall be authorized to solely utilize the  
29 science and technology capacity of Louisiana universities, the water institute, and  
30 other institutes within the state to enhance programs, projects, and activities for the  
31 following purposes:

32 (a) To identify any uncertainty related to the physical, chemical, geological,  
33 biological, or cultural baseline conditions in the ~~upland~~ **noncoastal** area.

34 \* \* \*

35 §2360. Infrastructure priority program; applications; evaluations

36 \* \* \*

37 C. The applications submitted by agencies shall be evaluated by the board  
38 which shall hold no less than three public hearings in separate locations within the  
39 ~~upland~~ **non coastal** area for the purpose of receiving public testimony and comment  
40 from requesting authorities and citizens regarding the proposed infrastructure  
41 projects. Such hearings may be held at the same time and location as hearings set for  
42 public comment on the annual plan. The authority shall prioritize and rank such  
43 applications. The authority shall provide its application evaluations to the board.

44 \* \* \*

45 Section 2. R.S. 38:2353(D) is hereby repealed."