

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 171

BY SENATOR PRESSLY

PUBLIC WORKS. Provides for the Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and Transportation Authority. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT
2 To amend and reenact R.S.38:5.1(A), 20(A) and (B), 84(A) and (B), 2351(A) and (B), 2352,
3 2353(B), 2354(A)(1), (B)(1) and (4), (D)(1), and (E)(1), 2355(A)(1) through (4),
4 (B)(6) and (10), and (C), the introductory paragraph of 2356(A), 2356(A)(2), and
5 (B)(2) and (5), and (C), 2358, 2359(B), (D)(2), and (E)(1)(a), and 2360(C) and to
6 repeal R.S. 38:2353(D), relative to public works; to provide for realigning of
7 agencies and responsibilities; to provide for the technical changes relative to the
8 Department of Transportation and Development's members of the authority; to
9 provide for Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority; and to provide for related
10 matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 38:5.1(A), 20(A) and (B), 84(A) and (B), 2351(A) and (B), 2352,
13 2353(B), 2354(A)(1), (B)(1) and (4), (D)(1), and (E)(1), 2355(A)(1) through (4), (B)(6) and
14 (10), and (C), the introductory paragraph of 2356(A), 2356(A)(2), and (B)(2) and (5), and
15 (C), 2358, 2359(B), (D)(2), and (E)(1)(a), and 2360(C) are hereby amended and reenacted
16 to read as follows:

17 §5.1. Planning assistance to municipal and other planning agencies; federal grants

* * *

§84. Parishes and municipalities authorized to comply with federal flood insurance act

A. In order to secure for the citizens of the state of Louisiana the flood insurance coverage provided for by the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, 42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq., all of the parishes and municipalities of the state may adopt, in coordination with the ~~chief resilience officer~~ such **Department of Transportation and Development** ordinances, rules, and regulations, including zoning and land use regulations, as ~~are~~ necessary to comply with the requirements of ~~said~~ **the** Act and the regulations adopted ~~pursuant thereto~~ by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. For ~~upland~~ **noncoastal** areas of the state as defined in R.S. 38:2352, said ordinances, rules, and regulations shall also comply with any statewide floodplain management standards which may be established by the Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and Transportation Authority.

B. The ~~chief resilience officer~~ **Department of Transportation and Development** shall cooperate with the Federal Insurance Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the planning and carrying out of state participation in the National Flood Insurance Program and shall aid, advise, and cooperate with parishes and municipalities endeavoring to qualify for participation in said program.

* * *

§2351. Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and Transportation Authority; purpose and intent

A. The Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and Transportation Authority, referred to in this Chapter as the "authority", is hereby established as the single coordinating entity responsible for the prioritization, planning, and funding of projects related to flood control, **flood** risk reduction, navigation, and ~~water resource~~ **floodplain and watershed** management in all areas of the state not included within the coastal area as defined in R.S. 49:214.2.

1 level rise.

2 §2353. Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and
3 Transportation Authority Board

4 * * *

5 ~~B.(1) The Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy,~~
6 ~~Navigation, and Transportation Authority Board shall consist of no more than sixteen~~
7 ~~members, selected by the governor, representing the following:~~

8 (a) ~~The Red River Waterway District, nominated by the commission.~~

9 (b) ~~The office of multimodal commerce. The commissioner shall serve until,~~
10 ~~or without, express gubernatorial designation of an alternative.~~

11 (c) ~~Statewide flood protection. The chief resiliency officer shall serve until,~~
12 ~~or without, express gubernatorial designation of an alternative.~~

13 (d) ~~Louisiana Economic Development. The secretary of the department shall~~
14 ~~serve until, or without, express gubernatorial designation of an alternative.~~

15 (e) ~~The North Louisiana Economic Partnership. The executive director shall~~
16 ~~serve until, or without, express gubernatorial designation of an alternative.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 A. The board shall:

2 (1) Represent the state's position on policy relative to the protection,
3 conservation, enhancement, and management of the ~~upland~~ **noncoastal** area of the
4 state through oversight of integrated projects and programs and by addressing
5 activities which could significantly affect integrated projects and programs, all
6 consistent with the legislative intent as expressed in this Title.

7 (2) Develop, coordinate, make reports on, and provide oversight for a
8 comprehensive ~~upland~~ **noncoastal** area master plan and annual plans, working in
9 conjunction with state agencies, political subdivisions, including flood protection
10 authorities, levee districts, and federal agencies. The master plan shall include a
11 comprehensive strategy addressing the protection, conservation, enhancement, and
12 management of the upland area through the construction and management of
13 integrated projects and programs, all consistent with the legislative intent as
14 expressed in this Chapter. The annual plan shall be developed as the annual
15 implementation of the comprehensive master plan and shall be submitted to the
16 legislature for approval as set forth in R.S. 38:2354. The annual plan shall include
17 a description and status of all projects and programs pertaining to the authority's
18 mission, including privately funded projects or plans, and addressing those activities
19 which significantly affect projects set forth in the plan, all consistent with the
20 legislative intent as expressed in this Title.

21 (3) Submit to the ~~House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment~~
22 ~~and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the~~ House Committee on
23 Transportation, Highways and Public Works and the Senate Committee on
24 Transportation, Highways and Public Works **meeting jointly**, the integrated plans
25 developed pursuant to R.S. 38:2354. Upon approval of the plans by the legislative
26 committees and prior to implementation of the plans, in whole or in part, the plans
27 shall be approved by the legislature as provided in R.S. 38:2354(E).

28 (4) Develop procedures in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act
29 and take actions against any entity, including political subdivisions, to enforce

1 compliance with the comprehensive master ~~upland~~ **noncoastal** area plan. Such
 2 procedures and actions may include but are not limited to determinations of
 3 noncompliance; appeal from such determinations; the taking of administrative
 4 action, including the withholding of funds; and civil action, including the seeking of
 5 injunctive relief, or any other remedy necessary to ensure compliance with the plan.

6 * * *

7 B. The board may:

8 * * *

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

12 * * *

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

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

26 * * *

27 §2356. Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and
 28 Transportation Authority

29 A. The Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation,

1 and Transportation Authority is hereby created within the ~~office of public works~~

2 Department of Transportation and Development. The authority shall:

3 * * *

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

9 * * *

10 B. * * *

11 * * *

12 (2) The governor may appoint an executive director of the Coordinated Use
13 of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and Transportation Authority.
14 In the event an executive director is not appointed, the ~~director of public works~~
15 secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development, or his
16 designee, may serve as the executive director of the Coordinated Use of Resources
17 for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and Transportation Authority.

18 * * *

19 (5) The executive director, or in his discretion a subordinate or subordinates,
20 shall administer the programs, projects, and activities approved for funding by the
21 Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and
22 Transportation Authority Board relating to and affecting an integrated ~~upland~~
23 noncoastal system, including conservation, restoration, creation, and enhancement
24 of ~~upland~~ noncoastal areas, storm damage reduction, flood control, infrastructure,
25 economic development, and navigation in Louisiana's ~~uplands area~~ noncoastal areas
26 as provided by law and as provided in the master and annual plans, and other special
27 programs as may be directed by the board.

28 * * *

29 C. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to diminish or impair the

1 constitutional, statutory, or contractual authority of any levee district, drainage
 2 district, navigation district, or port commission operating within the ~~upland~~
 3 **noncoastal** area. The authority shall coordinate with such entities to the greatest
 4 extent practicable.

5 §2358. Interaction with Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

6 The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and the Coordinated Use
 7 of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and Transportation Authority
 8 shall jointly develop integrated flood protection strategies. The Coastal Protection
 9 and Restoration Authority shall remain responsible for its functions and
 10 responsibilities as defined in R.S. 49:214.5.1 et seq. The Coordinated Use of
 11 Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and Transportation Authority shall
 12 oversee riverine flood management, inland navigation, and ~~water resource~~ **flood**
 13 **control** infrastructure within the ~~upland~~ **noncoastal** area as defined in R.S. 38:2352
 14 and as consistent with this Chapter.

15 §2359. Functions and responsibilities; Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation,
 16 Economy, Navigation, and Transportation Authority

17 * * *

18 B. The authority shall implement projects in the ~~upland~~ **noncoastal** area as
 19 approved by the board and consistent with the legislative intent of this Chapter.
 20 However, no project shall be undertaken except those included in an annual plan
 21 finally approved by the legislature in accordance with the provisions of R.S.
 22 38:2354, regardless of the source of funds for the project, except in cases of projects
 23 undertaken and financed out of the emergency fund, established in the annual plan.
 24 An emergency for which such fund shall be used shall be defined by the Coordinated
 25 Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and Transportation
 26 Authority Board and all funds shall be spent only in accord with procedures
 27 established by the authority board for such fund. All projects undertaken pursuant
 28 to the provisions of this Chapter shall be either funded through the Statewide Flood
 29 Program, the state general fund, or other sources of funding available to the

1 authority, including but not limited to direct federal aid, grants, gifts, and other
2 donations received by the state for the purposes of this Chapter.

3 * * *

4 D. The authority may:

5 * * *

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

12 * * *

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

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

19 * * *

20 §2360. Infrastructure priority program; applications; evaluations

21 * * *

22 C. The applications submitted by agencies shall be evaluated by the board
23 which shall hold no less than three public hearings in separate locations within the
24 ~~upland~~ **noncoastal** area for the purpose of receiving public testimony and comment
25 from requesting authorities and citizens regarding the proposed infrastructure
26 projects. Such hearings may be held at the same time and location as hearings set for
27 public comment on the annual plan. The authority shall prioritize and rank such
28 applications. The authority shall provide its application evaluations to the board.

29 * * *

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

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 171 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Pressly

Present law provides the Department of Public Works, state of Louisiana provides planning assistance to municipal, parish, regional and other planning agencies of the state and is authorized to apply for and accept grants of money from the U.S. government or any federal agencies and may contract with them as necessary to accept the grant and any requirements for matching the grants. Proposed law retains present law and changes the agency from the Department of Public Works, state of Louisiana to the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD).

Proposed law provides the chief engineer of the office of engineering of the Department of Transportation and Development will be a member appointed to the Red River Compact Commission. Proposed law changes the member from the chief engineer of the office of engineering of the Department of Transportation and Development to the secretary of the Department of Conservation and Energy.

Present law provides parishes and municipalities authorized to comply with federal flood insurance may adopt, ordinances, rules, and regulations, including zoning and land use regulations, necessary to comply with the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 in coordination with the chief resilience officer of DOTD. Proposed law retains present law and removes the chief resilience officer designee.

Proposed law provides the chief resilience officer of DOTD will cooperate with the Federal Insurance Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the planning and carrying out of state participation in the National Flood Insurance Program and will aid, advise, and cooperate with parishes and municipalities attempting to qualify for participation in the program. Proposed law retains present law and removes chief resilience office of DOTD as the designee.

Proposed law changes terminology from "upland" area to "noncoastal" area. Present law provides the Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and Transportation Authority also known as the "authority", is established as the single coordinating entity responsible for prioritizing, planning, and funding projects related to flood control, risk reduction, navigation, and water resource management in all areas of the state not included within the coastal area. Proposed law retains present law and changes terminology from "risk reduction" to "flood risk reduction", and changes from "water resource management" to "floodplain and watershed management".

Present law provides the authority will implement policy addressing issues related to water quantity, flood risk mitigation, navigation, economic development, and recreation. Proposed law changes terminology from "water quantity" to "watershed management" and adds "floodplain management" to the responsibilities of the authority.

Present law provides the definition of "integrated" as the coordinated planning, funding, construction, and operation of flood control, navigation, recreation, water management, and economic development projects to ensure efficient use of resources, minimize conflicts, and promote sustainable development. Proposed law retains present law and adds "floodplain management" to the definition. Proposed law further changes from "water management" to "watershed management" in the definition. Proposed law further provides for the definition

of the term "upland" to be replaced and used by the term "noncoastal".

Present law provides the board shall have 16 members. Proposed law retains present law. Proposed law further provides certain members of the authority to be subject to Senate confirmation.

Present law provides the secretary of LED will be a member of the authority and serve as a nonvoting member until gubernatorial designation of an alternative. Proposed law provides the agency authority member will change from secretary of LED to the executive director of CPRA.

Present law provides for board members from ports located within the upland parishes. Proposed law retains present law and changes from one member to no more than two members from noncoastal parishes.

Present law provides the board will not consist of more than two levee boards. Proposed law changes from two levee boards to three levee districts.

Proposed law provides for technical changes.

Present law provides adoption by the board of the master plan after submission to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works and the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works for approval. In addition, the annual plan shall be submitted to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works and the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works on or before the fifteenth day of the regular legislative session of each year. Proposed law removes provision for submission to House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and instead receive approval at a joint meeting of the House and the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works.

Present law provides the board oversee riverine flood management, inland navigation, and water resource infrastructure within the noncoastal area. Proposed law retains present law and changes the responsibility from water resource infrastructure to flood control infrastructure and makes further technical changes from "upland" to "noncoastal".

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 38:5.1(A), 20(A) and (B), 84(A) and (B), 2351(A) and (B), 2352, 2353(B), 2354(A)(1), (B)(1) and (4), (D)(1), and (E)(1), 2355(A)(1)-(4), (B)(6) and (10), and (C), 2356(A)(intro para), 2356(A)(2), and(B)(2) and (5), and (C), 2358, 2359(B), (D)(2), and (E)(1)(a), and 2360(C); repeals R.S. 38:2353(D))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works to the original bill

1. Clarifies board membership.
2. Changes terminology from "upland" to "noncoastal".
3. Requires approval of a master plan by Senate and House committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works.