DIGEST

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Sam Jones HB No. 219

Abstract: Provides for certain funds in the Atchafalaya Basin Conservation Fund to be used to purchase from willing sellers land in the Atchafalaya Basin.

Present constitution provides for certain revenues from severance taxes levied in the Atchafalaya Basin to be deposited into the Atchafalaya Basin Conservation Fund. Present law specifies how those revenues are to be expended, i.e., for projects contained in the state or federal Basin master plans, an annual Basin plan, or to provide match for federal dollars being used in the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System, Louisiana Project.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that of the funds received from the severance tax dedication, 5% is to be set aside for the Dept. of Natural Resources to purchase, in fee title from willing sellers, land located within the Atchafalaya Basin to be used as conservation servitudes. Provides that the mineral rights remain with the seller. Further provides that the land to be purchased is to be included in the Basin annual plan which is presented to the legislature for approval.

(Amends R.S. 30:2000.12(C))