

Prior law provided that in order to allow the individual lessee to lease lands from the state in preference to syndicated landholders or corporations, no lease will cover a larger area than 640 acres of public land, which area must be contiguous. Further provided that no lessee may own more than one such lease at one time.

New law provides that the above provisions of prior law do not apply to leases of White Lake property.

New law provides that at the end of the term of a lease which was issued on White Lake property which lease was transferred to the state through the act of donation, the property subject to such lease may be offered by the DW&F for lease. Further provides that such lease will be deemed a new lease and must be offered for public bid under the provisions of prior law.

Prior law provided relative to leases of public lands, including term, payment of consideration, construction of improvements, and requirements and time periods for extension of leases. Excluded port authorities of the state, and has special provisions relating to lease of 16th section school lands for agricultural purposes, and access to public waterways.

New law retains prior law, and adds that leases or extensions of leases on the White Lake property shall require that the rental payments be for fair market lease value.

Prior law provided if the commissioner or secretary determines there exists a public need to maintain the current lessee, the commissioner or secretary may offer the current lessee, if he made a bid, the option to match the highest bid in order to lease the state lands. Also provided that this will not apply to oyster leases, alligator leases, or oil and gas leases entered into by the DW&F, or to any lease entered into by the State Mineral and Energy Board.

New law retains prior law and adds that this highest bid offer shall apply to lessees who held a lease on the White Lake property and changes "current lessee" to "most recent lessee of record, his heirs, or assignees".

Effective June 23, 2011.

(Amends R.S. 41:1217.1(B) and R.S. 56:30.3(B); adds R.S. 56:799.7)