DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

HB 295 Engrossed

2015 Regular Session

Brown

Abstract: Provides for a forest protection assessment. Directs all unexpended and unencumbered monies in the Forest Protection Fund (fund) to the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority.

<u>Present law</u> establishes a forest protection tax. <u>Proposed law</u> modifies <u>present law</u> by changing the tax to an assessment.

<u>Present law</u> establishes a Forest Protection Fund. <u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u>.

<u>Present law</u> directs the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry to expend monies in the fund to acquire and maintain equipment for the protection of forest lands from damage by fire or other causes. <u>Proposed</u> law retains present law.

<u>Present law</u> directs all unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund to the state general fund and requires that such funds be invested by the treasurer and the interest earned credited to the state general fund. <u>Proposed law</u> modifies <u>present law</u> by directing all unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund to the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority. <u>Proposed law</u> also removes the <u>present law</u> requirement that the monies in the fund be invested and the interest credited to the state general fund.

(Amends R.S. 3:4321)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Agriculture</u>, <u>Forestry</u>, <u>Aquaculture</u>, and <u>Rural Development</u> to the <u>original</u> bill:

1. Make a technical change.