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## DIGEST

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HB 516 Original

2016 Regular Session

Anders

**Abstract:** Changes the composition of the Louisiana Aquatic Chelonian Research and Promotion Board. Repeals referendums associated with the Louisiana Aquatic Chelonian Research and Promotion Board.

Present law provides for the La. Aquatic Chelonian Research and Promotion Board to be composed of ten members, nine of whom shall be appointed by the commissioner and confirmed by the Senate as follows: (1) two licensed farmers from a list of four persons who are members of the La. Turtle Farmers Association, (2) two licensed farmers from a list of four persons who are members of the Independent Turtle Farmers of La., (3) two licensed farmers from a list of four persons who are members of the Pet Turtle Cooperative Association, (4) two licensed farmers from a list of four persons who are not members of any of the trade organizations listed, and (5) one member with knowledge of the aquatic chelonian industry shall be appointed at large. Additionally provides for the commissioner of agriculture to serve as an ex officio member.

Proposed law modifies present law by changing the number of members on the board from ten to six. Also, requires five members be licensed turtle farmers.

Present law requires the commissioner to appoint one alternate for each appointed member. It further provides that the alternate appointed to represent a member nominated by a trade group shall be appointed from the list of four persons submitted by the representative trade group.

Proposed law modifies present law by requiring that each alternate be a licensed turtle farmer.

Present law requires vacancies in the offices of the members and alternates be filled in the same manner as the original appointments. It further provides that if the position of any member or alternate appointed from a list of persons submitted by one of the trade groups named becomes vacant, then the commissioner must call for a list of names from the appropriate trade group; and if any trade group becomes defunct or does not submit a full list of names to the commissioner within the time frame required, the commissioner may appoint any licensed turtle farmer not already appointed to the board to fill a vacancy.

Proposed law removes the present law requirement.

Present law provides for referendums to be called by the commissioner to vote on any assessments that the board may want to levy.

Proposed law repeals present law referendums requirements associated with the board.

(Amends R.S. 3:559.23(B), (D), and (F); Repeals R.S. 3:559.26)