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DIGEST

SB 379 Reengrossed 2026 Regular Session Hensgens

Present law establishes the Dept. of Conservation and Energy and provides for jurisdiction, duties, and powers of the department and the secretary. Provides for the office of mineral resources.

Proposed law retains present law and changes the office of mineral resources to the office of state resources, changes references to the former position of commissioner of conservation to the secretary of the Dept. of Conservation and Energy, and other technical corrections.

Present law authorizes the State Mineral and Energy Board to lease state property for mineral exploration and alternative energy, such as solar, wind, geothermal, and hydrokinetic.

Proposed law clarifies that leases of state and other public lands may be for development and production of minerals, oil, gas, or alternative energy sources and as provided in present law.

Present law sets up a process for application, inspection, advertisement, and bids for leases. Other political subdivisions, such as ports and school boards, may ask the board to lease for them.

Present law limits minimum royalties for such leases, other than for school boards, to 1/8th for oil, gas, sulphur, and potash, and 1/20th for lignite and salt.

Proposed law allows the board to set royalties at less than 1/8th but greater than 1/16th upon a finding that market conditions, commodity prices, or other economic factors warrant the reduction.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 30:3(7), 4(C)(14), (D)(1)(a) and (5), (G), and (I)(2), 5(C)(1), (C)(2) (intro para), and (6), and (D)(1), 5.1(A)(1) and (B)(1), 6.1(A) and (C), 21(D)(5), 23(D)(2), 26, 29(A) and (I)(4), 73(1), 74(A)(3) and (B), 98.3(B), 101.2(A), 101.5(A), 127(A), 136.3(B)(1), 153(A), 548(intro para), 917(F), 1110(C)(1)(f) and (g), and R.S. 36:358(B), (E)(2), and (G); adds R.S. 30:84(A)(9) and (10); repeals R.S. 30:4(O)(3), 85, and 101.6)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Natural Resources to the original bill

1. Authorizes the State Mineral and Energy Board to lease with less than a 1/8th royalty

in certain circumstances.

2. Provides for the purposes of the State Mineral and Energy Board to lease other agencies' land.
3. Make technical changes.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Make technical changes to Title 30 to align with 2025 reorganization bill.
2. Change references to commissioner of conservation to secretary.
3. Change office of mineral resources to office of state resources.
4. Provide for funds from royalty field audit collections to be deposited into the Mineral and Energy Operation Fund.
5. Remove confirmation of directors appointed by the secretary.
6. Recognize name change from the Center for Energy Studies to the Energy Institute.
7. Make technical corrections.