
DIGEST

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HB 423 Original

2017 Regular Session

Leopold

Abstract: Authorizes the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality to establish and administer a water quality trading program.

Present law authorizes the secretary of Dept. of Environmental Quality to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations that implement a point source to point source effluent reduction credit banking system in watersheds where the department has implemented Total Maximum Daily Load limitations.

Proposed law removes authority of the current banking program and authorizes the secretary to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations that implement a water quality trading program that may include point source and nonpoint source participation.

Proposed law requires the regulations of the program provide for criteria for earning, quantifying, and validating credits; the geographical limitations on the use of credits; monitoring, use, banking, life, enforcement, and sale of credits; required approvals of the department relating to credits; recordkeeping; and compliance with federal and state laws and regulations.

Proposed law authorizes a pilot or demonstration project to aid in the development of a water quality trading program prior to the adoption of regulations authorized by proposed law.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 30:2074(B)(9)(a) and (b); Repeals R.S. 30:2074(B)(9)(c)-(e))