HOUSE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

2017 Regular Session

Substitute for Original House Bill No. 535 by Representative Marcelle as proposed by the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

This document reflects the content of a substitute bill but is not in a bill form; page numbers in this document DO NOT correspond to page numbers in the substitute bill itself.

To amend and reenact R.S. 38:3097.8 and to enact R.S. 38:3097.3(G) and 3097.9, relative to water resource management; to provide for the duties and powers of the commissioner of conservation; to provide for reporting and parliamentary requirements for certain water conservation districts; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 38:3097.8 is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 38:3097.3(G) and 3097.9 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§3097.3. Commissioner of conservation; powers and duties

* * *

G. The commissioner shall ensure submission of the semiannual reports required of the ground water conservation districts by R.S.38: 3097.8. If the reports are not submitted timely or do not include the pertinent information required, the commissioner is authorized to require monthly submissions of the reports until he is satisfied with the adequacy and informative nature of the reports.

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§3097.8. ~~Annual report~~ Semiannual reports regarding groundwater quality and saltwater intrusion

A. On or before ~~April first annually, each water conservation district, fresh water district, and groundwater~~ February first and August first every year, each ground water conservation district created by law or designated as a regional body, pursuant to R.S. 38:3097.4(D)(6), shall submit ~~a written report of the district's groundwater resources~~ to the commissioner of conservation, the Water Resources Commission, the Water Management Advisory Task Force, the Senate Committee

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on ~~Natural Resources~~ Environmental Quality, and the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment a written report detailing the district's ground water resources and the activities and actions taken with respect to each of the district's powers delineated by laws creating the district. The report shall also include but not be limited to the amount of water used for residential, commercial or industrial, or agricultural purposes, respectively; actual and projected saltwater intrusion or encroachment; and any current or projected sale of water for use outside of the state, including the amount of water so sold and the price paid by each out-of-state user.

B. For purposes of the ~~annual~~ semiannual report, the amount of water used for agricultural or industrial purposes may be estimated.

§3097.9 Ground water conservation district meetings

Any governing authority of a ground water conservation district created by law or designated as a regional body, pursuant to R.S. 38:3097.4(D)(6), shall adhere to the Open Meetings Law, R.S. 42:11 et seq. Such governing authority shall issue public notice of meetings, including an agenda, at least twenty-four hours in advance. In addition, the public shall be provided the opportunity to comment on each item on the agenda and for general comments at the end of each meeting. Any such governing authority shall operate under Robert's Rules of Order and shall record and maintain minutes of each meeting. Any standing subcommittee created by such governing authority shall be composed only of members of the governing authority and the governing authority shall not establish ad hoc committees.

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 535 Original 2017 Regular Session Natural Resources and Environment

Abstract: Requires semiannual reporting and parliamentary procedures for ground water conservation districts and regional bodies.

Present law requires each water conservation district, fresh water district, and ground water conservation district created by law to submit annually a written report of the district's ground water resources to the commissioner of conservation, Water Resources Commission, the Water Management Advisory Task Force, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, and the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment.

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Present law authorizes the Water Resources Commission to direct the commissioner of conservation to appoint or designate, through rules and regulations, up to five regional bodies based on the general location of the major aquifer systems. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law requires the ground water report to be submitted semiannually. Proposed law removes the ground water reporting requirement for water conservation districts and fresh water conservation districts and adds the requirement to the designated regional bodies. Proposed law changes the submission of the report from the Senate Committee on Natural Resources to the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality.

Present law requires the report of the district's ground water resources include but not limited to, the amount of water used for residential, commercial or industrial, or agricultural purposes, respectively; actual and projected saltwater intrusion or encroachment; and any current or projected sale of water for use outside of the state, including the amount of water so sold and the price paid by each out-of-state user.

Proposed law adds that the report must include the activities and actions taken with respect to each of the district's powers delineated by laws creating the district.

Present law provides that, for purposes of the report, the amount of water used for agricultural and industrial purposes may be estimated. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law requires any governing authority of a ground water conservation district created by law or designated as a regional body by the Water Resources Commission do all of the following:

(1) Adhere to the Open Meetings Law.
(2) Issue public notice of meetings, including an agenda, at 24 hours in advance.
(3) Provide the public with the opportunity to comment on each agenda item on the agenda and for general comments at the end of each meeting.
(4) Operate under Roberts Rule of Order.
(5) Record and maintain minutes of each meeting.

Proposed law requires any standing subcommittee created by such governing authority be composed only of members of the governing authority and prohibits the establishment of ad hoc committees.

(Amends R.S. 38:3097.8; Adds R.S. 38:3097.3(G) and 3097.9)

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