
DIGEST

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HB 410 Original

2018 Regular Session

Bishop

Abstract: Authorizes the Teche-Vermilion Fresh Water District to enhance the regional watershed.

Present law creates the Teche-Vermilion Fresh Water District for the purpose of establishing, maintaining, and protecting a fresh water supply in Bayou Teche and the Vermilion River.

Proposed law expands the district's authority to enhance the regional watershed.

Present law grants the district the following powers:

- (1) To buy and sell; to own, maintain and operate property within and without the district.
- (2) To acquire servitudes and rights-of-way within and without the district.
- (3) To grant and fulfill assurances of local participation in connection with any state or federal project.
- (4) To negotiate and execute contracts.
- (5) To expropriate the rights-of-way required to construct a specific project authorized by the U.S. Congress.
- (6) To cooperate with the state and federal government and their agencies to establish, construct, operate, and maintain the fresh water system.

Proposed law retains present law except removes the authority to expropriate rights-of-way for the specific congressionally approved project and grants the authority to expropriate for the purpose of regional watershed enhancement. Proposed law also clarifies the district's contracting authority.

Proposed law grants the district the following additional powers:

- (1) To perform any other necessary and ancillary acts to effectuate its functions, to perform its duties, or to give effect to its powers.
- (2) To enhance the regional watershed through performing, to include but not limited to, developing, constructing, and maintaining flood control measures and structures and public access and recreation facilities; engaging in public relations and government relations;

financial and financing assistance; tax abatement; planning and coordination for water flow; waterway training, technical assistance, and technology transfer; facilitate improvements; promoting transfer of ideas to commercially successful utilization by local enterprises; promoting the development of new products, processes, or services or new uses for existing products, processes, or services; engaging in any activities and projects it deems most appropriate to encourage and assist water flow, drainage, flood abatement and other water uses.

Present law provides that present law does not impair the right and authority of municipalities or police juries to create, maintain, and operate waterworks districts and sub-waterworks districts. Proposed law retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 38:3086.1 and 3086.5)