

2024 Third Extraordinary Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 23

BY REPRESENTATIVES GEYMANN AND ROMERO AND SENATOR HENSGENS

MINERALS: Provides for the administration of the Oilfield Site Restoration Fund (Item #16)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 30:81(B), 83(Section heading), (A), and (B), 83.1(A)(1) and (2),

3 (B), and (C), 84(A)(7), 85(A)(4), 86(A)(2), (B), (E)(introductory paragraph), (1), (2),

4 and (5) through (7), (G), and (H), 87(A), (B), and (F)(1), 88(B) and (C), 88.1(C) and

5 (D), 88.2(C), 89(C)(3), 90(Section heading), (A) through (C), and (E)(introductory

6 paragraph) and (5), 91(B)(2)(c), and 95, to enact R.S. 30:82(16), and to repeal R.S.

7 30:82(3) and 83(C) through (I), relative to oilfield site restoration; to provide for the

8 use and administration of the Oilfield Site Restoration Fund; to repeal the Oilfield

9 Site Restoration Commission; to authorize the Natural Resources Trust Authority to

10 administer the fund with the oversight of the State Mineral and Energy Board; to

11 transfer functions of the commission to the trust authority; to provide definitions; to

12 provide for the administration of federal funds for oilfield site restoration and

13 plugging of orphan wells; to provide for the authority to execute financial

14 agreements and instruments; to provide for the calculation of oilfield site restoration

15 fees; to increase oilfield site restoration fees; to provide an effective date; and to

16 provide for related matters.

17 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

18 Section 1. R.S. 30:81(B), 83(Section heading), (A), and (B), 83.1(A)(1) and (2), (B),

19 and (C), 84(A)(7), 85(A)(4), 86(A)(2), (B), (E)(introductory paragraph), (1), (2), and (5)

20 through (7), (G), and (H), 87(A), (B), and (F)(1), 88(B) and (C), 88.1(C) and (D), 88.2(C),

1 89(C)(3), 90(Section heading), (A) through (C), and (E)(introductory paragraph) and (5),
2 91(B)(2)(c), and 95 are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 30:82(16) is hereby enacted
3 to read as follows:

4 §81. Policy and purpose

5 * * *

6 B. It is in the public interest and within the police power of this state to
7 establish ~~an oilfield site restoration commission~~ and an oilfield site restoration fund
8 to provide for the proper and timely cleanup, closure, and restoration of oilfield sites,
9 to be administered by the ~~assistant secretary of the office of conservation within the~~
10 Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

11 * * *

12 §82. Definitions

13 As used in this Part, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed to
14 them in this Section, unless the context or use clearly indicates otherwise:

15 * * *

16 (16) "Trust authority" means the Natural Resources Trust Authority
17 established pursuant to R.S. 36:356.1.

18 ~~§83. Oilfield Site Restoration Commission~~ site restoration; administration by the
19 Department of Energy and Natural Resources

20 A. ~~The Oilfield Site Restoration Commission is hereby created within the~~
21 ~~office of the secretary of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources. The~~
22 ~~commission shall have the power to sue and be sued and shall be domiciled in the~~
23 ~~parish of East Baton Rouge. Venue for any suit brought by or against the~~
24 ~~commission shall be in the Nineteenth Judicial District Court. The Natural~~
25 Resources Trust Authority, under the direction of the secretary and subject to
26 oversight by the State Mineral and Energy Board pursuant to R.S. 36:356.1, is
27 authorized to perform the following functions related to oilfield site restoration:

28 (1) Approve and evaluate a priority list for site restoration annually.

1 (2) Pledge the revenues available to fund authorized purposes and to secure
2 the issuance of bonds to fund such purposes provided in R.S. 30:83.1, provided that
3 annual debt service shall not be in excess of fifty percent of the pledged revenues
4 estimated to be received in the calendar year the bonds are issued.

5 (3) Approve lists of contractors acceptable to conduct site assessment and
6 site restoration.

7 (4) Approve a cooperative endeavor agreement between the trust authority
8 and an organization seeking to assist with plugging orphaned wells in order to
9 alleviate the burden on operators in meeting financial security requirements.

10 (5) Review administration of site restoration activities and review the
11 adequacy of site restoration assessments and reopen the funding needs and
12 arrangements for site-specific trust accounts every four years. However, unless the
13 oilfield site is transferred from one party to another after the adoption of a standard
14 for evaluation, site-specific trust accounts established prior to the adoption of a
15 standard for evaluation by the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, office
16 of conservation shall not be reassessed if the operator of record provides to the office
17 on an annual basis, utilizing the methodology in use at the time that the site-specific
18 trust account was established, proof that the security is adequate to ensure proper
19 closure of the wells upon completion of activity.

20 (6) Provide general administration and management of the Oilfield Site
21 Restoration Fund, funds collected from financial security instruments previously tied
22 to a specific well or wells that have since been plugged or are otherwise not tied to
23 a specific well or wells, and all site-specific trust accounts.

24 (7) Perform any function authorized by this Part or which is consistent with
25 its purpose and not otherwise assigned by this Part to the secretary or assistant
26 secretary.

27 B. The Department of Energy and Natural Resources shall adopt rules and
28 regulations, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, to implement the

1 provisions of this Part and to provide for procedures for site assessments and
2 restoration.

3 §83.1. Authorization of bonds

4 A.(1) An issuer is authorized to issue bonds pursuant to the provisions of
5 R.S. 9:2341 through 2347 for the benefit of the ~~commission~~ trust authority, at the
6 direction of the secretary, to raise funds for authorized purposes in accordance with
7 the provisions of this Section and the constitutional and statutory provisions
8 governing the issuance of bonds by such entities.

9 (2) The bonds may be secured by an irrevocable pledge and dedication of
10 revenues of the ~~commission~~ trust authority, at the direction of the secretary, which
11 shall consist of all monies deposited in the fund pursuant to R.S. 30:86(D), collected,
12 derived, or received from the oilfield site restoration fees and penalties imposed
13 pursuant to R.S. 30:87 or any other lawfully available revenues, if any, to the extent
14 appropriated, provided that annual debt service shall not be in excess of fifty percent
15 of the pledged revenues estimated to be received in the calendar year the bonds are
16 issued, but shall not include site-specific trust account monies as identified in R.S.
17 30:86(D)(6) and 88. The bonds of the issuer shall be revenue bonds payable solely
18 from the above-described sources, to the extent appropriated and released from the
19 state, and such pledge shall not constitute a pledge of the full faith and credit of the
20 state.

21 * * *

22 B.(1) When any bonds have been issued and secured in accordance with the
23 provisions of this Section, neither the ~~commission~~ trust authority, nor the
24 department, nor the state, nor any other entity may act to impair any obligation or
25 contract for the benefit of the holders of the bonds or discontinue or decrease any fee,
26 penalties, or other revenue in anticipation of the collection of which the bonds have
27 been issued until all of the bonds have been retired as to principal and interest or
28 irrevocable provision otherwise made for their complete redemption and payment

1 in principal, interest, and redemption premium, if any, and the complete payment of
2 all amounts due under the trust agreement pursuant to which the bonds are issued.

3 (2) Any pledge of revenues for the security of the bonds shall be valid and
4 binding from the time the pledge is made and shall be subject to the lien of such
5 pledge without any physical delivery thereof or further act, and the lien of any such
6 pledge shall be valid and binding against all parties having claims of any kind in tort,
7 contract, or otherwise against the state, the department, or the ~~commission~~ trust
8 authority whether or not such parties have notice thereof. Any trust agreement by
9 which a pledge is created need not be filed or recorded.

10 (3) The secretary, ~~or the undersecretary,~~ and the Natural Resources Trust
11 Authority ~~are~~ is hereby authorized ~~on behalf of the commission~~ to execute loan,
12 reimbursement, investment, and bond purchase agreements, and all documents as
13 may be necessary or desirable to carry out the provisions of this Section and ~~is~~ are
14 further authorized to take any and all further actions and execute and deliver all other
15 documents as may be necessary in connection with the issuance of any bonds, notes,
16 certificates, reimbursement obligations, or other evidences of indebtedness referred
17 to in this Section. The provisions of R.S. 9:2347(J) shall not apply to bonds or any
18 contractual obligation, including the pledge of state funds, to be undertaken or
19 incurred in connection therewith.

20 (4) At the direction of the secretary, the ~~commission~~ trust authority is
21 authorized to create funds or accounts for the deposit of the revenues or the proceeds
22 of the bonds, including funds described above or other revenues and monies pledged
23 in connection therewith or respect thereto.

24 (5) The department and, at the direction of the secretary, the ~~commission~~
25 trust authority is authorized to enter into any and all agreements or contracts, execute
26 any and all instruments, and do and perform any and all acts necessary, convenient,
27 or desirable for the issuance of the bonds or to carry out any power expressly given
28 in this Section.

1 C. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any revenues
2 received by the ~~commission~~ trust authority pledged to the repayment of any bonds
3 issued in accordance with this Section may be collected and disbursed as set forth in
4 the documents providing for the issuance of the bonds or other related documents.

5 §84. Powers of the secretary

6 A. The powers of the secretary shall include without limitation the power to
7 do the following:

8 * * *

9 (7) The secretary shall maintain all oversight, supervisory, and fiscal
10 responsibility imposed under the provisions of this Part which are not specifically
11 conferred upon the ~~commission~~ trust authority.

12 * * *

13 §85. Powers of the assistant secretary

14 A. The powers of the assistant secretary shall include without limitation the
15 power to do the following, subject to the supervision of the secretary:

16 * * *

17 (4) Modify funding requirements of site-specific trust accounts either upon
18 recommendation of the ~~commission~~ trust authority, the secretary, or upon his own
19 determination, based upon changes in operation, site conditions, or trust account
20 status.

21 * * *

22 §86. Oilfield Site Restoration Fund

23 A.

24 * * *

25 (2) Out of the funds remaining in the Bond Security and Redemption Fund,
26 after a sufficient amount is allocated from that fund to pay all the obligations secured
27 by the full faith and credit of the state that become due and payable within each fiscal
28 year, the treasurer shall pay into the Oilfield Site Restoration Fund an amount equal
29 to the revenues generated from collection of the fees provided for in Subsection D

1 of this Section. The treasurer shall also transfer into the Oilfield Site Restoration
 2 Fund the amount of thirty million dollars in federal funding from the first federal
 3 funds received by the state for which oilfield site restoration or plugging orphan
 4 wells is an allowable use, as determined by the Joint Legislative Committee on the
 5 Budget. Such funds shall constitute a special custodial trust fund which shall be
 6 administered by the ~~secretary, who~~ Natural Resources Trust Authority, which shall
 7 make disbursements from the fund solely in accordance with the purposes and uses
 8 authorized by this Part.

9 B. The funds received shall be placed in the special trust fund in the custody
 10 of the state treasurer to be used only in accordance with this Part and shall not be
 11 placed in the general fund. The funds provided to the ~~commission~~ trust authority
 12 pursuant to this Section shall at all times be and remain the property of the
 13 ~~commission~~ trust authority. The funds shall be used only for the purposes set forth
 14 in this Part and for no other governmental purposes. Except for the pledge of the
 15 revenues provided in R.S. 30:83.1, it is the intent of the legislature that this fund and
 16 its increments shall remain intact and inviolate. Any interest or earnings of the fund
 17 shall be credited only to the fund.

18 * * *

19 E. Except as otherwise provided in this Section, the monies in the fund may
 20 be disbursed and expended pursuant to the authority and direction of the secretary
 21 or ~~assistant secretary~~ the Natural Resources Trust Authority for the following
 22 purposes and uses:

23 (1) Any oilfield site assessment or restoration conducted by the Department
 24 of Energy and Natural Resources pursuant to this Part, and the payment of the
 25 principal, interest, and legal fees, credit enhancement fees, trustee fees, and other
 26 related costs of issuance or ongoing expenses in connection with issuance of bonds
 27 or other debt obligations on behalf of the ~~commission, at the direction of the~~
 28 ~~secretary~~ trust authority, pursuant to R.S. 30:83.1 for the purpose of financing the
 29 costs of the oilfield site assessments and restorations.

1 of 1950. The contract may be awarded to any qualified party whether or not the
2 party is on the approved list of contractors acceptable to conduct site assessment and
3 restoration by the ~~commission~~ trust authority.

4 * * *

5 G. Upon declaration of an emergency as defined in R.S. 30:6.1, the assistant
6 secretary shall notify the ~~commission~~ trust authority and the State Mineral and
7 Energy Board of the declared emergency. ~~A meeting of the commission shall be~~
8 ~~held within ninety days after the emergency declaration. At such meeting, the~~
9 ~~commission~~ Upon notification, the trust authority, in consultation with the State
10 Mineral and Energy Board, may direct that no monies in the fund be disbursed or
11 spent for response activity related to the emergency declaration.

12 H. At the direction of the secretary or the Natural Resources Trust Authority,
13 federal monies dedicated pursuant to Paragraph (D)(9) or (10) of this Section shall
14 be placed into the department's federal funds account instead of the Oilfield Site
15 Restoration Fund, but such money shall otherwise be subject to the same
16 requirements applicable to money identified in Paragraph (D)(9) or (10) of this
17 Section.

18 §87. Oilfield site restoration fees

19 A. There is hereby imposed on crude petroleum produced from producing
20 wells in this state a fee on each barrel of oil and condensate as provided in this
21 Section ~~payable upon the initial disposition of each barrel of oil and condensate~~. The
22 fee is in addition to any tax imposed pursuant to Title 47 of the Louisiana Revised
23 Statutes of 1950. The provisions of Chapters 17 and 18 of Subtitle II of Title 47 of
24 the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 shall apply to the administration, collection,
25 and enforcement of the fee imposed in this Section, and the penalties provided by
26 that code shall apply to any person who fails to pay or report the fee. Proceeds from
27 the fee, including any penalties collected in connection with the fee, shall be
28 deposited into the Oilfield Site Restoration Fund.

1 B. There is hereby imposed on gas produced from producing wells in this
 2 state a fee ~~in the amount of three-tenths of one cent~~ for each thousand cubic feet as
 3 provided in this Section. The fee is in addition to any tax imposed pursuant to Title
 4 47 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950. The provisions of ~~the Louisiana Tax~~
 5 ~~Code~~ R.S. 47:1 et seq., shall apply to the administration, collection, and enforcement
 6 of the fee, and the penalties provided by that ~~code~~ Title shall apply to any person
 7 who fails to pay or report the fee. Proceeds from the fee, including any penalties
 8 collected in connection with the fee, shall be deposited into the Oilfield Site
 9 Restoration Fund.

10 * * *

11 F. The site restoration fee shall be the following:

12 (1)~~(a)~~ Full rate production, ~~which~~ shall include all production from oil or gas
 13 wells except for production from reduced rate production wells as set forth in R.S.
 14 47:633(7)~~;~~. ~~For crude oil and condensate, the fee shall be based on the oil price on~~
 15 ~~July first of each year for the ensuing twelve months based upon the average New~~
 16 ~~York Mercantile Exchange Price per barrel of crude oil per month on the close of~~
 17 ~~business on June thirtieth for the prior twelve months.~~ (a) The amount of the fee for
 18 a well that produces crude oil and condensate shall be as follows:

19 (i) The fee shall be ~~one and one-half~~ two cents per barrel on crude oil and
 20 condensate if the price of oil is at or below sixty dollars per barrel.

21 (ii) The fee shall be ~~three~~ four cents per barrel on crude oil and condensate
 22 if the price of oil is above sixty dollars and at or below ninety dollars per barrel.

23 (iii) The fee shall be ~~four and one-half~~ six cents per barrel on crude oil and
 24 condensate if the price of oil is above ninety dollars per barrel.

25 (b) For natural gas and casing head gas, the fee shall be ~~three-tenths of one~~
 26 ~~cent per thousand cubic feet.~~ as follows:

27 (i) The fee shall be three-tenths of one cent per thousand cubic feet if the
 28 price of gas is at or below two dollars and fifty cents per thousand cubic feet.

1 properly funded. The funds in each trust account shall remain the property of the
2 ~~commission~~ trust authority.

3 * * *

4 §88.1. Oilfield site trust accounts for orphaned wells

5 * * *

6 C. Site restoration assessment. When establishing a site-specific trust
7 account under this Section, the assistant secretary shall require an oilfield site
8 restoration assessment to be made to determine the site restoration requirements
9 existing at the time the site-specific trust account is established. The oilfield site
10 restoration assessment shall be conducted by approved site assessment contractors
11 appearing on a list approved by the ~~commission~~ trust authority or acceptable to the
12 ~~commission~~ trust authority. The oilfield site restoration assessment shall specifically
13 detail the site's restoration needs and shall provide an estimate of the restoration costs
14 needed to restore the oilfield site based on the conditions existing at the time the
15 site-specific trust account is established.

16 D. Trust account monitoring. The assistant secretary shall monitor each trust
17 account to assure that it is being properly funded. The funds in each trust account
18 shall remain the property of the ~~commission~~ trust authority. In the event that the
19 site-specific trust account is not funded through the payment of the severance tax due
20 the state for a period of greater than six months from the date of first production
21 following designation of the well as part of an orphaned oilfield site, the assistant
22 secretary shall require financial security in accordance with the office of
23 conservation's rules and regulations.

24 * * *

25 §88.2. Orphan well rework program

26 * * *

27 C. Trust account monitoring. The assistant secretary shall monitor each trust
28 account to assure that it is being properly funded. The funds in each trust account
29 shall remain the property of the ~~commission~~ trust authority. If the site-specific trust

1 account is not funded through the payment of amounts equal to the severance tax that
2 would otherwise be due the state for a period of greater than six months from the
3 date of first production following designation of the well as part of an orphaned
4 oilfield site, the assistant secretary shall require financial security in accordance with
5 this Subtitle and the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this Subtitle including
6 the exceptions provided in R.S. 30:4(R).

7 * * *

8 §89. Non-orphan site restoration

9 * * *

10 C. For sites restored pursuant to Subsections A and B of this Section, after
11 site restoration has been completed and approved by the assistant secretary, funds
12 from the site-specific trust account will be disbursed as follows:

13 * * *

14 (3) If the funds in the site-specific trust account are depleted prior to the
15 payment of all site restoration costs, and if the assistant secretary subsequently
16 declares that oilfield site to be an orphaned oilfield site and upon approval of the
17 ~~commission~~ trust authority, the Oilfield Site Restoration Fund shall contribute the
18 balance of the restoration costs for that orphaned oilfield site.

19 * * *

20 §90. ~~Commission's~~ Natural Resources Trust Authority annual report to the
21 legislature

22 A. The ~~commission~~ trust authority shall submit to the Senate Committee on
23 Natural Resources, the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment,
24 and the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality before March first an annual
25 report that reviews the extent to which the fund has enabled the ~~commission~~ trust
26 authority to better protect the environment and enhance the income of the Oilfield
27 Site Restoration Fund.

28 B. The ~~commission~~ trust authority shall generate a three-year plan which
29 comprehensively addresses a balanced restoration of all oilfield sites in the state.

1 §95. No inference of liability on the part of the state

2 A. Nothing in this Part shall establish or create any liability or responsibility
3 on the part of the ~~commission~~ trust authority or the state of Louisiana to pay any
4 costs associated with site restoration from any sources other than the fund created by
5 R.S. 30:86 or the funds established in connection with the issuance of bonds on
6 behalf of the ~~commission~~ trust authority, at the direction of the secretary, pursuant
7 to R.S. 30:83.1 nor shall the ~~commission~~ trust authority or the state of Louisiana
8 have any liability or responsibility to make any payments for costs associated with
9 site restoration if the trust created herein is insufficient to do so.

10 B. The secretary, assistant secretary, the ~~commission~~ trust authority, or their
11 agents, on proper identification, may enter the land of another for purposes of site
12 assessment or restoration.

13 C. The ~~commission~~ trust authority, the secretary, and the assistant secretary,
14 and their agents, are not liable for any damages arising from an act or omission if the
15 act or omission is part of a good faith effort to carry out the purpose of this Part.

16 D. No party contracting with the Department of Energy and Natural
17 Resources, office of conservation, or the ~~commission~~ trust authority under the
18 provisions of this Part shall be deemed to be a public employee or an employee
19 otherwise subject to the provisions of Parts I through IV of Chapter 15 of Title 42 of
20 the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

21 Section 2. R.S. 30:82(3) and 83(C) through (I) are hereby repealed in their entirety.

22 Section 3. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized and directed to
23 alphabetize and renumber the definitions contained in R.S. 30:82 and to correct any cross-
24 references to the renumbered paragraphs if necessary, consistent with the provisions of this
25 Act.

26 Section 4. This Act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

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 23 Reengrossed

2024 Third Extraordinary Session

Geymann

Abstract: Provides for the use and administration of the Oilfield Site Restoration Fund and federal funds for oilfield site restoration and plugging of orphan wells by the Natural Resources Trust Authority, under the direction of the secretary and the State Mineral and Energy Board and increases oilfield site restoration fees.

Present law authorizes the assistant secretary for the office of conservation to administer the Oilfield Site Restoration Fund. (R.S. 30:81(B))

Proposed law removes this authority and provides that the fund be administered by the Dept. of Energy and Natural Resources. (R.S. 30:81(B))

Present law provides definitions to be used throughout the Oilfield Site Restoration Law, including a definition for "commission". (R.S. 30:82)

Proposed law removes the definition for "commission" and adds a definition for "trust authority". (R.S. 30:82)

Present law creates the Oilfield Site Restoration Commission and provides for the commission's powers and functions, including management and use of the Oilfield Site Restoration Fund, federal funds for site restoration and orphan wells, and site-specific trust accounts; oversight of restoration priorities, assessments, and approved contractors; pledging monies in the fund, the authorization of bonds, and the execution of security related instruments and agreements; disbursement of money from the fund for specified purposes; and annual reporting to the legislature. (R.S. 30:83, 83.1, 86, 88, 88.1, 88.2, 89, 90, 95)

Proposed law repeals the Oilfield Site Restoration Commission. (R.S. 30:83, 83.1, 86, 88, 88.1, 88.2, 89, 90, 95)

Present law establishes the Natural Resources Trust Authority within the dept, in the office of the undersecretary and under the State Mineral and Energy Board. (R.S. 36:356.1)

Proposed law transfers the powers and functions of the commission to the Natural Resources Trust Authority, acting under the direction of the State Mineral and Energy Board and the secretary of the dept. and replaces all instances of "commission" in the Oilfield Site Restoration Law with "trust authority". (R.S. 30:83, 83.1, 86, 88, 88.1, 88.2, 89, 90, 95)

Present law establishes the powers of the secretary and assistant secretary of conservation regarding oilfield site restoration. (R.S. 30:84, 85)

Proposed law retains present law and only changes references to the "commission" to the "trust authority". (R.S. 30:84, 85)

Present law establishes a special custodial trust fund within the Oilfield Site Restoration Fund for the deposit of thirty million dollars in federal funding for oilfield site restoration or plugging of orphan wells and authorizes the secretary to administer this fund. (R.S. 30:86(A)(2))

Proposed law retains the special custodial trust from present law, but gives authority over its administration to the Natural Resources Trust Authority, rather than the secretary. (R.S. 30:86(A)(2))

Present law authorizes the secretary to direct that certain federal monies dedicated to oilfield site restoration or plugging orphan wells be placed in the dept.'s federal funds account instead of the Oilfield Site Restoration Fund. (R.S. 30:86(H))

Proposed law authorizes the Natural Resources Trust Authority, in addition to the secretary, to direct such placement of federal funds. (R.S. 30:86(H))

Present law provides that oilfield site restoration fees are to be based on the oil price on July 1st each year for the ensuing twelve months based upon the average New York Mercantile Exchange Price per barrel of crude oil per month on the close of business on June thirtieth for the prior twelve months. (R.S. 30:87(F)(1)(a))

Proposed law removes reference to the average New York Mercantile Exchange. (R.S. 30:87(F)(1)(a))

Present law imposes the following oilfield site restoration fees for full rate production:

- (1) On crude oil and condensate:
 - (a) 1.5 cents per barrel if the price of oil is at or below \$60 per barrel.
 - (b) 3 cents per barrel if the price of oil is over \$60 and at or below \$90 per barrel.
 - (c) 4.5 cents per barrel if the price of oil is above \$90 per barrel.
- (2) On natural gas and casing head gas: 3/10 of 1 cent per thousand cubic feet. (R.S. 30:87(B) and (F)(1))

Proposed law increases these fees to the following:

- (1) On crude oil and condensate:
 - (a) 2 cents per barrel if the price of oil is at or below \$60 per barrel.
 - (b) 4 cents per barrel if the price of oil is over \$60 and at or below \$90 per barrel.
 - (c) 6 cents per barrel if the price of oil is above \$90 per barrel.
- (2) On natural gas and casing head gas:
 - (a) 3/10 of 1 cent per thousand cubic feet if the price of gas is at or below \$2.50.
 - (b) 4/10 of 1 cent per thousand cubic feet if the price of gas is \$2.51 to \$4.50.
 - (c) 5/10 of 1 cent per thousand cubic feet if the price of gas is \$4.51 or more. (R.S. 30:87(B) and (F)(1))

Present law provides for orphan well lienholder claims against the commission, dept., office of conservation, and contractors for the value of salvaged equipment. (R.S. 30:91)

Proposed law retains present law, but substitutes the trust authority for the commission as one of the entities within the dept. that a claim can be made against. (R.S. 30:91)

Directs the La. State Law Institute to alphabetize and renumber the definitions contained in R.S. 30:82.

Effective July 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 30:83(Section heading), (A), and (B), 83.1(A)(1) and (2), (B), and (C), 84(A)(7), 85(A)(4), 86(A)(2), (B), (E)(intro. para.), (1), (2), and (5) - (7), (G), and (H), 87(A), (B), and (F)(1), 88(B) and (C), 88.1(C) and (D), 88.2(C), 89(C)(3), 90(Section heading), (A) - (C), and (E)(intro. para.) and (5), 91(B)(2)(c), and 95; Adds R.S. 30:82(16); Repeals R.S. 30:82(3) and 83(C) - (I))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Repeal the Oilfield Site Restoration Commission and transfer the functions of the commission to the Natural Resources Trust Authority.
3. Replace references to the commission throughout the Oilfield Site Restoration Law with references to the trust authority instead.
3. Decrease the oilfield site restoration fee on gas and change the fee to a graduated one based on gas prices.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.