

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

House Bill No. 148 by Representative Champagne

FUNDS/FUNDING: (Constitutional Amendment) Requires that monies received by the state from violations of certain federal and state laws associated with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill be deposited into the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Changes the permitted uses of the monies deposited into the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund under proposed constitutional amendment from integrated coastal protection efforts to programs, projects, and activities within the La. Coastal Zone authorized by federal regulations pursuant to the RESTORE Act of 2012.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present constitution establishes the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund to provide a dedicated, recurring source of revenues for the development and implementation of a program to protect and restore La.'s coastal area.

Present constitution provides for allocations of mineral revenues into the fund and provided that the balance in the fund which consists of mineral revenues from severance taxes, royalty payments, bonus payments, and rentals shall not exceed an amount provided by law.

Proposed constitutional amendment requires that monies received for violations pursuant to federal law (Federal Water Pollution Control Act 33 U.S.C. 1321) and present law associated with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill be deposited and credited to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund and dedicated exclusively for programs, projects, and activities within the coastal zone of Louisiana authorized by federal regulations adopted pursuant to the federal RESTORE Act of 2012. Further specifies that proposed constitutional amendment shall not be construed to affect funds associated with the Natural Resources Damage Assessment process.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that the fund balance limitations under present constitution relative to mineral revenues deposited into the fund shall not apply to deposits made under proposed constitutional amendment.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Nov. 4, 2014.

(Adds Const. Art. VII, §10.2(G))