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## DIGEST

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HB 618 Engrossed

2017 Regular Session

Garofalo

**Abstract:** Authorizes the Coastal Protection and Restoration Financing Corporation to issue bonds with revenues from the Resources Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economics of the Gulf Coast State Act (RESTORE) and the Deepwater Horizon natural damages (NRDA).

Present law generally authorizes the Coastal Protection and Restoration Financing Corporation to carry out financing, purchasing, owning, and managing Offshore Royalty Revenues and Offshore Royalty Revenue Assets received under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA).

Proposed law would allow the same for assets and revenues received under the Deepwater Horizon natural resources damage (NRDA) consent decree and the Resources Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economics of the Gulf Coast State Act (RESTORE).

For assets and revenues from NRDA and RESTORE, proposed law authorizes the State Bond Commission, subject to approval from the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and a majority of each house of the legislature, to sell to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Financing Corp. allocation received by the state from those two settlements. Authorizes the corporation to use the assets received from the sale to support the sale of bonds, either RESTORE bonds or DWH NRD bonds.

Proposed law authorizes the corporation to issue revenue bonds backed by the RESTORE assets or the DWH NRD assets. Provides for the procedures that are to be followed for each, including approval by the State Bond Commission and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget. Requires that the proceeds of the sale of the bonds be used for the purposes for which the bonds were issued. Specifies that the bonds are bonds of the corporation and are in no way backed by the full faith and credit of the state.

Proposed law requires that all proceeds and monies received by the state, whether through purchase of assets, as residual interests, or any other way be deposited to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund.

(Amends R.S. 39:99.27(1), (4), (5), (10), (18), 99.30(A)(intro. para.) and (1), 99.38(A), (B), and (C), and 99.42; Adds R.S. 39:99.27(19)-(28) and 99.41 and 99.42)