HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 423 **2017 Regular Session** **Leopold**

ENVIRONMENT/WATER: Authorizes the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to establish and administer a water quality trading program

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Adds "certifying" and "generating" as criteria for the validation, approval, and sale of banked credits.

2. Removes demonstration project from that which may be used to aid in the development of a water quality trading program prior to the adoption of regulations.

3. Requires review of rules and regulations implementing proposed law by the House and Senate agriculture committees.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law authorizes the secretary of Dept. of Environmental Quality to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations that implement a point source to point source effluent reduction credit banking system in watersheds where the department has implemented Total Maximum Daily Load limitations.

Proposed law removes authority of the current banking program and authorizes the secretary to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations that implement a water quality trading program that may include point source and nonpoint source participation.

Proposed law requires the regulations of the program provide for criteria for earning, certifying, generating, quantifying, and validating credits; the geographical limitations on the use of credits; monitoring, certifying, generating, use, banking, term, enforcement, and sale of credits; required approvals of the department relating to credits; recordkeeping; and compliance with federal and state laws and regulations.

Proposed law authorizes a pilot project to aid in the development of a water quality trading program prior to the adoption of regulations authorized by proposed law.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 30:2074(B)(9)(a), (b), and (c); Repeals R.S. 30:2074(B)(9)(d) and (e))