

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

HB 689

2017 Regular Session

Marcelle

June 7, 2017

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives and the Honorable President and Members of the Senate.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning House Bill No. 689 by Representative Marcelle, recommend the following concerning the Engrossed bill:

1. That Senate Floor Amendments Nos. 1 and 2 by Senator Ward (#2840) be adopted.
2. That Senate Floor Amendment No. 3 by Senator Ward (#2840) be rejected.

Respectfully submitted,

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Representative C. Denise Marcelle

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Senator Norby Chabert

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Representative Stuart Bishop

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Senator Regina Barrow

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Representative Tanner Magee

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Senator Rick Ward, III

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)]

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST**

**HB 689**

**2017 Regular Session**

**Marcelle**

**Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House**

WATER/RESOURCES: Requires semiannual ground water reporting and parliamentary procedures for certain ground water conservation districts and regional bodies.

**Report adopts Senate amendments to:**

1. Change dates for submission of semiannual reports.
2. Require the commissioner of conservation to promulgate a checklist of information required in the semiannual report.

**Report rejects Senate amendments which would have:**

1. Changed the composition of subcommittees from only members of the governing authority to voting members who are members of the governing authority and nonvoting members who are experts appointed by the commission.
2. Removed the prohibition of establishing ad hoc committees.

**Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee**

Present law requires each water conservation district, fresh water district, and ground water conservation district created by law to submit annually a written report of the district's ground water resources to the commissioner of conservation, Water Resources Commission, the Water Management Advisory Task Force, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, and the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment.

Present law authorizes the Water Resources Commission to direct the commissioner of conservation to appoint or designate, through rules and regulations, up to five regional bodies based on the general location of the major aquifer systems. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law requires the ground water report to be submitted semiannually on May first and November first. Proposed law removes the ground water reporting requirement for water conservation districts and fresh water conservation districts and adds the requirement to the designated regional bodies. Proposed law changes the submission of the report from the Senate Committee on Natural Resources to the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality.

Present law requires the report of the district's ground water resources include, but not be limited to, the amount of water used for residential, commercial or industrial, or agricultural purposes, respectively; actual and projected saltwater intrusion or encroachment; and any current or projected sale of water for use outside of the state, including the amount of water so sold and the price paid by each out-of-state user.

Proposed law adds that the report must include the activities and actions taken with respect to each of the district's powers delineated by laws creating the district.

Present law provides that, for purposes of the report, the amount of water used for agricultural and industrial purposes may be estimated. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law requires the commissioner of conservation to promulgate a checklist of information required in the semiannual report.

Proposed law requires any governing authority of a ground water conservation district created by law or designated as a regional body by the Water Resources Commission do all of the following:

- (1) Adhere to the Open Meetings Law.
- (2) Issue public notice of meetings, including an agenda, at 24 hours in advance.
- (3) Provide the public with the opportunity to comment on each agenda item on the agenda and for general comments at the end of each meeting.
- (4) Operate under Robert's Rules of Order.
- (5) Record and maintain minutes of each meeting.

Proposed law requires any standing subcommittee created by such governing authority be composed only of members of the governing authority and prohibits the establishment of ad hoc committees.

(Amends R.S. 38:3097.8; Adds R.S. 38:3097.3(G) and 3097.9)