

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 425 (HB 689)

2017 Regular Session

Marcelle

Prior law required 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.

Existing 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.

New law requires the ground water report to be submitted semiannually on May first and November first. New 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. New law changes the submission of the report from the Senate Committee on Natural Resources to the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality.

Existing 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.

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

Existing law provides that, for purposes of the report, the amount of water used for agricultural and industrial purposes may be estimated.

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

New 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 least 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.

New 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.

Effective August 1, 2017.

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