

2019 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 216

BY SENATOR CHABERT

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

FUNDS/FUNDING. Creates the State Land Office Reforestation Fund. (8/1/19)

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AN ACT

To enact Subpart T of Part II-A of Chapter 1 of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 39:100.151, relative to special funds; to create the State Land Office Reforestation Fund; to provide for the purpose; to provide limitations on use; to provide for investment; to provide for transfer of monies; to provide for reporting; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Subpart T of Part II-A of Chapter 1 of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 39:100.151, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

**SUBPART T. STATE LAND OFFICE REFORESTATION FUND**

**§100.151. State Land Office Reforestation Fund**

**A. There is hereby created in the state treasury, as a special fund, the State Land Office Reforestation Fund, hereinafter referred to as the "fund".**

**B. Subject to appropriation by the legislature, monies in the fund shall be used solely to fund reforestation of state properties, preparing state-owned timber sites for cultivation, paying fees assessed by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry for timber management, purchasing necessary**

1 servitudes or easements to improve timber harvesting, and purchasing  
2 servitudes or tracts of land to increase access to landlocked state properties.

3 C. The fund shall consist of any monies appropriated, allocated, or  
4 transferred to the fund, including twenty-five percent of the proceeds from the  
5 sale of timber pursuant R.S. 41:1001 et seq. and sale of timber pursuant to a  
6 timber management program under R.S. 3:2(B), notwithstanding the provisions  
7 of R.S. 41:135(A), R.S. 3:2(C), or any other law to the contrary.

8 D. Monies in the fund shall be invested in the same manner as monies in  
9 the state general fund. Interest earned on investment of monies in the fund shall  
10 be credited to the fund. Unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at  
11 the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund.

12 E. At the end of each fiscal year, the state treasurer is authorized and  
13 directed to transfer into the state general fund any monies exceeding five  
14 hundred thousand dollars.

15 F. The register of the state land office shall submit as part of the annual  
16 report to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the  
17 Senate Committee on Natural Resources required by R.S. 41:2 and R.S. 41:140,  
18 a descriptive list by parish of the revenues, expenditures, and projects  
19 associated with the provisions of Subsection C of this Section.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alan Miller.

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DIGEST

SB 216 Original                      2019 Regular Session                      Chabert

Proposed law creates in the state treasury, as a special fund, the State Land Office Reforestation Fund, or "fund".

Proposed law provides that, subject to appropriation by the legislature, monies in the fund be used solely for the following purposes:

- (1) Funding reforestation of state properties.
- (2) Preparing state-owned timber sites for cultivation.
- (3) Paying fees assessed by the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry for timber management.

- (4) Purchasing necessary servitudes or easements to improve timber harvesting.
- (5) Purchasing servitudes or tracts of land to increase access to landlocked state properties.

Proposed law provides that the fund consist of any monies appropriated, allocated, or transferred to the fund, including 25% of the proceeds from the sale of timber pursuant to present law, and sale of timber pursuant to a timber management program under present law.

Proposed law provides that monies in the fund be invested in the same manner as monies in the state general fund, and that interest earned on investment of monies in the fund be credited to the fund, with any unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the fiscal year to remain in the fund.

Proposed law provides that at the end of each fiscal year, the state treasurer is authorized and directed to transfer into the state general fund any monies exceeding \$500,000.

Proposed law requires the register of the state land office to submit as part of the annual report to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources required by present law, a descriptive list by parish of the revenues, expenditures, and projects associated with the provisions of proposed law.

Effective August 1, 2019.

(Adds R.S. 39:100.151)