

2019 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 201

BY SENATOR MIZELL

LOCAL AGENCIES. Repeals the Washington Parish Reservoir District and directs the transfer of any remaining property and excess funds to the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism in support of the Bogue Chitto State Park. (See Act)

1 AN ACT
2 To repeal R.S. 36:509(S) and Part XXVI of Chapter 13 of Title 38 of the Louisiana Revised
3 Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 38:3087.191 through 3087.206, relative to the
4 Washington Parish Reservoir District; to repeal references to, provisions for, and the
5 powers, functions, and duties of the district and its board of commissioners; to
6 provide for use of property and funds; to provide for an effective date; and to provide
7 for related matters.

8 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 36:509(S) is hereby repealed.

11 **Section 2. Part XXVI of Chapter 13 of Title 38 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes**
12 **of 1950, comprised of R.S. 38:3087.191 through 3087.206, is hereby repealed in its**
13 **entirety.**

14 **Section 3. Prior to September 1, 2019, the board of commissioners of the**
15 **Washington Parish Reservoir District shall take all appropriate action to collect any**
16 **funds due and owing to the district and to pay or satisfy any outstanding obligations**
17 **and liabilities of the district. All of the equipment, vehicles, supplies, books, records,**

1 documents, papers, monies, actions, or any other item of property, and the
 2 improvements thereon, both movable and immovable, heretofore owned, held, used,
 3 operated, or maintained by the district in the exercise of its functions shall be
 4 transferred to the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. Any monies
 5 transferred to the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism shall be deposited
 6 into the Louisiana State Parks Improvement and Repair Fund to be used, subject to
 7 legislative appropriation, for the Bogue Chitto State Park for expanding recreation.

8 Section 4. The Secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
 9 shall conduct a town hall meeting no later than August 1, 2020, in Washington Parish
 10 with the legislative delegation for Washington Parish to determine what are the best
 11 options for expansion of recreation for Washington Parish at Bogue Chitto State Park.

12 Section 5. The provisions of this Act shall supersede any other provisions of law to
 13 the contrary. The provisions of this Act shall be liberally construed to effectuate these
 14 purposes.

15 Section 6. Sections 1 and 2 of this Act shall become effective on September 1, 2019.
 16 Sections 3 through 6 of this Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or,
 17 if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without
 18 signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of
 19 Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act
 20 shall become effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument was prepared by Michael Bell. The following digest,
 which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared
 by J.W. Wiley.

DIGEST

SB 201 Reengrossed 2019 Regular Session Mizell

Present law establishes the Washington Parish Reservoir District. Provides that the district shall be a political subdivision of the state and shall be comprised of the area of Washington Parish.

Present law provides that the district's purpose is to develop the wealth and natural resources of the district by conserving soil and water for agricultural, recreational, commercial, industrial, and sanitary purposes. Provides that the district shall create and maintain lakes and reservoirs and engage in economic development.

Present law provides that the district shall constitute a body corporate and shall have the

authority to sue and be sued, buy and sell, levy taxes, negotiate and execute contracts, and incur debt and issue negotiable bonds.

Present law provides that the district shall be exempt from taxation. Authorizes the district to cooperate and contract with the federal or state government or any department or agency for the construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities.

Present law provides that the district is governed by a board of 11 commissioners, appointed by the governor subject to Senate confirmation, who shall be qualified electors of the state residing within Washington Parish.

Present law prohibits any person or corporation from erecting any dam or reservoir upon any watercourse which will affect the district without the approval of the board of commissioners. Provides for penalties of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than 60 days, or both.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Proposed law provides that prior to September 1, 2019, the board of commissioners shall take all appropriate actions to collect any funds due and owing to the district and to pay or satisfy any obligations and liabilities of the district. Further provides that all property, immovable or movable, shall be transferred to the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. Any monies transferred to the Department shall be deposited into the Louisiana State Parks Improvement and Repair Fund to be used, subject to legislative appropriation, for the Bogue Chitto State Park for expanding recreation.

Proposed law provides that the Secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism conduct a town hall meeting no later than August 1, 2020, in Washington Parish with the legislative delegation for Washington Parish to determine what are the best options for expansion of recreation for Washington Parish at Bogue Chitto State Park.

Provisions requiring transfer of property to the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action. Repeal of the Washington Parish Reservoir District effective September 1, 2019.

(Repeals R.S. 36:509(S) and R.S. 38:3087.191-3087.206)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the original bill

1. Requires the District to collect any funds due to the District and to pay any obligations owing to the District prior to September 1, 2019.
2. Provides that the District will transfer any remaining property to the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.
3. Provides that any monies transferred to the Department shall be deposited into the Louisiana State Parks Improvement and Repair Fund to be used, subject to legislative appropriation, for the Bogue Chitto State Park for expanding recreation.
4. Changes effective date.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Makes legislative bureau technical corrections.