

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 544

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES AND SENATOR WHITE

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

WATERWAYS: Extends the period for which the Comite River is exempt from certain provisions of the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 56:1855(P)(1)(introductory paragraph), relative to the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act; to extend the period for which the Comite River is exempt from certain statutory requirements; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 56:1855(P)(1)(introductory paragraph) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1855. Exceptions

\* \* \*

P.(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of the law to the contrary, beginning August 1, 2018, through ~~August 1, 2021~~, August 1, 2026, no provision of this Part shall:

\* \* \*

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**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)]

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HB 544 Engrossed

2021 Regular Session

Hodges

**Abstract:** Extends the period for which the Comite River is exempt from certain provisions of the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act by five years.

Present law provides that, beginning Aug. 1, 2018, through Aug. 1, 2021, no evaluation or permit will be required for the channelization, clearing and snagging, channel realignment, reservoir construction, or dredging operations for drainage purposes in the Comite River.

Present law further provides that from Aug. 1, 2018, through Aug. 1, 2021, use of a motor vehicle or other wheeled or tracked vehicle on the Comite River is prohibited, except for permitted uses and direct crossings by immediately adjacent landowners, lessees, or other persons who have written permission from the landowner to access adjoining tracts of land for noncommercial activities in a manner that does not directly and significantly degrade the ecological integrity of the stream. Specifies that written permission must be in the person's possession and include the landowner's contact information.

Proposed law retains present law and extends the exemption from Aug. 1, 2021, to Aug. 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 56:1855(P)(1)(intro. para.))