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## DIGEST

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HB 72 Engrossed

2021 Regular Session

Coussan

**Abstract:** Authorizes the Dept. of Environmental Quality to promulgate regulations for a voluntary environmental self-audit program administered by the department.

Proposed law authorizes the secretary of the Dept. of Environmental Quality to establish a program for voluntary environmental self-audits. Requires that the regulations provide for the conduct of the self-audit, submission of the results to the department, the period of time that information contained in the self-audit may be held confidential, incentives to encourage the use of self-audits, corrective actions for violations discovered by the self-audit, submission of a corrective plan, and fees for reviewing the audit and corrective plan.

Present law provides that department records and information obtained from rules, regulations, orders, licenses, or permits are available to the public unless the secretary determines that release of the information may impair an investigation or the protection of trade secrets and proprietary information.

Proposed law requires information obtained through a voluntary environmental self-audit be held confidential for a limited time as specified in the rules applicable to voluntary environmental self-audits. Specifies that information disclosed to the department under a self-audit that is required to be reported to a state or federal agency by statute, regulation, or permit will not be held confidential.

Present law requires the department to conduct a public hearing on all environmental assessment statements.

Proposed law changes this requirement by giving the department discretion on conducting such a hearing and allows members of the public to request such a hearing.

(Amends R.S. 30:2018(C) and 2030(A)(2); Adds R.S. 30:2030(A)(3) and 2044)

### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to the original bill:

1. Provide the Department of Environmental Quality discretionary authority to conduct public hearings on environmental assessments. Also, allows the public to request such hearings.

2. Make technical changes.