

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

**SB 203**

**2021 Regular Session**

**White**

Would provide, notwithstanding any contrary provision of law including the Code of Governmental Ethics, a member of the board of commissioners of a groundwater district nominated by an industrial user within the district, appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate, who, at the time of nomination is employed by, rendering compensated services to, or participating in a transaction with the member's respective nominating entity, may continue to be employed by, render compensated services to, or participate in transactions with the member's respective nominating entity.

Proposed law would be considered remedial and interpretive and applied retroactively and prospectively.

Would have become effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Proposed to add R.S. 42:1123(47))

**VETO MESSAGE:** "Please be advised that I have vetoed Senate Bill 203 of the 2021 Regular Session.

This bill is intended to provide for an exception in the Code of Governmental Ethics for certain appointees on the Capitol Area Groundwater Commission. The bill would both retroactively clear several former members of the Commission from current ethics charges and would allow for a blanket exception to the ethics code going forward for members appointed pursuant to La. R.S. 38:3074(A)(2) and (3). While I understand the dilemma for the members with ethics charges who may have inadvertently violated the code of ethics, I do not agree that there should be a prospective exception. The industrial users of the aquifer can provide nominations of individuals that will not run afoul of the ethics code, and my most recent appointees to the Commission do not have this issue. Should the legislature come back in the next session with an exception that is narrowly drafted to cure a previous inadvertent violation, I will support it. I cannot support a broad exception for all members in the future."