
DIGEST

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HB 765 Original

2022 Regular Session

Carrier

Abstract: Removes litter reduction and awareness responsibilities, litter abatement grants, and anti-litter programs from the Dept. of Education and places these functions within the Dept. of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism. Creates separate accounts for environmental education and litter abatement and redirects existing funding between these two accounts.

Present law contains a La. Environmental Education and Litter Reduction Act, which creates and provides for an environmental education and litter reduction section within the Dept. of Education. Present law establishes the responsibilities of this department section as environmental education programming throughout the state as well as litter control awareness programming, a litter abatement grant program, and a host of programs designed to encourage anti-litter efforts from the private sector, including the following:

- (1) Adopt-a-beach program
- (2) Community improvement program
- (3) Beach sweep program
- (4) Inland water cleanup
- (5) Boaters' and fishermen's pledge
- (6) Adopt-a-byway program
- (7) Adopt-a-waterbody program

Proposed law removes litter reduction, litter control awareness, the litter abatement grant program, and the private sector anti-litter programs from under the Dept. of Education and places them each under the office of the secretary for the Dept. of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism.

Present law creates within the Conservation Fund an account entitled the "litter abatement and education account" to be used towards certain environmental education and litter abatement programs and goals. Present law further directs donations from certain prestige license plates, a portion of littering fines and court costs paid, and a portion of fees collected for the issuance and renewal of driver's licenses into this account.

Proposed law creates the "litter abatement account" within the Conservation Fund and directs that a portion of littering fines and court costs paid and a portion of the fees collected for the issuance and renewal of driver's licenses into this account. Proposed law further specifies that funds in the account be used for litter abatement grants, litter abatement and enforcement, and to support community-based litter abatement programs.

Proposed law creates the "environmental education account" within the Conservation Fund and directs that donations from the environmental education special prestige license plate be credited to the account. Proposed law specifies that funds in the account be used for statewide environmental education, environmental education grant programs, development of environmental education curriculum and teacher education and professional development requirements, and litter education and awareness programs and materials.

Present law provides fines and special court costs for intentional littering and directs portions of those fines and special court costs to the litter abatement and education account.

Proposed law retains the fines and special court costs for intentional littering under present law, but directs the portions dedicated to the litter abatement and education account under present law to the litter abatement account instead.

Present law provides for fees to be charged for the issuance or renewal of driver's licenses and directs a portion of those fees to the litter abatement and education account.

Proposed law retains the same fees, but directs the portions dedicated to the litter abatement and education account under present law to the litter abatement account instead.

Present law provides for a special prestige license plate for environmental education and dedicates a portion of the donation received for such plates to the litter abatement and education account.

Proposed law retains the special prestige license plate and the donation required for the plate, but directs the portions dedicated to the litter abatement and education account under present law to the environmental education account instead.

Present law creates a litter abatement and education account within the state treasury and directs fines from littering violations into this account.

Proposed law repeals present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:200, 203(7) and 205(Section heading) and (A), R.S. 30:2531(C)(4) and 2532(A)(5), R.S. 32:412(A)(1), (2), (5), and (6), and (B)(1), (2), and (7)(e)(i)(cc) and (ee) and (ii)(cc) and (ee), R.S. 47:463.43(Section heading), (A), and (D), and R.S. 56:10(B)(15); Adds R.S. 17:215(E), R.S. 49:1131-1143, and R.S. 56:10(B)(17); Repeals R.S. 17:203(3)-(6), 204, 205(C), and 206-214 and R.S. 30:2532(B))