

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 280

BY REPRESENTATIVE COATES

WATERWAYS/LAKES: Prohibits the permitting of certain structures on Lake Maurepas and Lake Ponchartrain

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 30:4(U) and R.S. 49:214.29(I), relative to permitting authority for the
3 placement of structures on certain lakes; to provide for the authority of the
4 commissioner of conservation; to provide for the authority of the secretary of the
5 Department of Energy and Natural Resources; to provide relative to coastal use
6 permits; to provide for prohibited structures on certain scenic lakes; and to provide
7 for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 30:4(U) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §4. Jurisdiction, duties, and powers of the assistant secretary; rules and regulations

11 * * *

12 U. In order to preserve the scenic quality of certain lakes of this state with
13 outstanding ecological, cultural, economic, and recreational significance for the
14 enjoyment of present and future generations, the commissioner shall not issue any
15 order or permit pursuant to this Subtitle allowing for the construction, installation,
16 or use of any permanent structure which may at any time protrude above the surface
17 of the following lakes:

18 (1) Lake Maurepas.

19 (2) Lake Pontchartrain.

1 Section 2. R.S. 49:214.29(I) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

2 §214.29. Special areas, projects, and programs

3 * * *

4 I. Notwithstanding any law, order, or regulation to the contrary, the secretary
5 shall not allow the issuance of any coastal use permits for wind turbines on Lake
6 Maurepas or Lake Pontchartrain.

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)]

HB 280 Original

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Coates

Abstract: Prohibits the commissioner of conservation from issuing permits or orders that allow permanent above-surface structures on Lake Maurepas and Lake Pontchartrain and prohibits the secretary of the Dept. of Energy and Natural Resources from allowing coastal use permits for wind turbines on Lake Maurepas or Lake Pontchartrain.

Present law provides for the authority of the commissioner of conservation, including authority to issue permits and orders related to oil and gas exploration and drilling, injection wells, carbon dioxide sequestration, and other mineral-related activities.

Proposed law provides an exception to the authority of the commissioner, prohibiting the issuance of any order or permit otherwise within his authority if the order or permit would allow the construction, installation, or use of any permanent structure above the surface of Lake Maurepas or Lake Pontchartrain.

Present law establishes a coastal zone management program. Specifies that the secretary of the Dept. of Energy and Natural Resources and the office of coastal management are responsible for the management of activities in the coastal zone, including the issuance of coastal use permits.

Proposed law prohibits the issuance of coastal use permits for wind turbines on Lake Maurepas or Lake Pontchartrain.

(Adds R.S. 30:4(U) and R.S. 49:214.29(I))