
DIGEST

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HB 564 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

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Abstract: Establishes a conservation incentive program account within the Conservation Fund to assist private landowners with enhancing wildlife habitats and wetlands on private property and establishes criteria for obtaining this assistance.

Present law (R.S. 56:10) provides for annual reports to the governor, limits purposes for use of money in certain funds, and provides for the creation of special funds and accounts within the Conservation Fund. Proposed law adds the Conservation Incentive Program Account to the list of special accounts created in present law.

Proposed law (R.S. 56:1938.2) establishes the Conservation Incentive Program within the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries (dept.) to assist private landowners with improving wildlife habitat on their property.

Proposed law restricts awarding of grants to fiscal years in which the dept. receives an appropriation for the program. Further authorizes the dept. to seek additional funding through federal grant programs and other public and private funding sources and to select recipients.

Proposed law requires the dept. to promulgate and adopt rules pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act for the implementation of the Conservation Incentive Program.

Effective subject to appropriation of monies by the legislature for the implementation of proposed law.

(Adds R.S. 56:10(B)(20), 1938.1, and 1938.2)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the engrossed bill:

1. Change references from "fund" to "account" throughout proposed law.
2. Authorize the account to receive transfers of money.
3. Restrict grant awards to years in which the dept. receives an appropriation for the program.

4. Delete reference to promulgation of regulations.
5. Make effectiveness of proposed law subject to appropriation of monies by the legislature for the implementation of proposed law.