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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

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	DIGEST	
SB 94 Engrossed	2025 Regular Session	Fesi

Present law defines jurisdictional "waters of the state" as surface waters subject to tides, lakes, rivers, streams, mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, natural ponds, impoundments of waters within the state otherwise defined as "waters of the United States" in federal law, and their tributaries.

Proposed law retains present law and requires that impoundments that are otherwise defined as waters of the United States in federal law must bear a continuous surface connection to waters of the state to also be jurisdictional waters of the state. Further defines "continuous surface connection" as an interface between water bodies that shows no clear line of demarcation between the end of one body and the beginning of another. Continuous surface connection has no effect on ownership of land or water bottoms.

Present law defines "fastlands" as lands surrounded by publicly owned, maintained, or otherwise validly existing levees or natural formations which prevent activities, other than pumping of water for drainage, within the surrounded area from having direct and significant impacts on coastal waters.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that fastlands includes areas that would otherwise be considered wetlands as defined in federal law, and that are surrounded by either privately or publicly owned or maintained levees, berms, flood protection structures, or natural formations that prevent a continuous surface connection to waters of the United States.

Present law refers to the body of water bordering Louisiana's coastline as the "Gulf of Mexico".

Proposed law changes the name of the water body to "Gulf of America".

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 30:2073(7) and 49:1(A) and 214.23(6); adds R.S. 30:2073(10) and 49:1(D) and 214.23(14))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Natural Resources to the  
original bill

1. Provides that the definition of "continuous surface connection" shall not be construed to affect ownership of lands or water bottoms.