

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 418 (SB 97)

2025 Regular Session

Pressly

Existing law provides for the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the Dept. of Transportation and Development and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority concerning flood control, navigation, water resource management, and related infrastructure.

New law creates the Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and Transportation Authority (the authority) as the primary entity responsible for integrated flood control, risk reduction, navigation, water resource management, and infrastructure projects specifically within the upland areas of the state, excluding areas under the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

Existing law allows political subdivisions and port, navigation, and levee districts to pursue projects that are independent of Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's annual plan but consistent with their master plan.

New law provides that establishment of the authority does not affect the powers and responsibilities of any political subdivision, port, or navigation or levee district, including an entity's authority as a local sponsor under a federal program. Further allows such entities to pursue projects that are independent of the annual plan but consistent with the master plan.

New law establishes an appeals process for projects excluded from the annual plan and a 60-day deadline for the authority to decide appeals.

New law details the authority's jurisdiction, encompassing comprehensive integrated planning, prioritization, and implementation of flood protection, infrastructure development, economic advancement, navigation enhancement, and recreational improvement projects that are coordinated for efficiency. It explicitly grants the authority the power to manage water resources, ensure flood risk mitigation, and promote sustainable economic and recreational development.

New law establishes the Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and Transportation Authority Board (the board), consisting of no more than 16 gubernatorial appointees, representing the Red River Waterway district, the office of multimodal commerce, statewide flood protection (chief resiliency officer), La. Economic Development, North La. Economic Partnership, Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, ports located in upland parishes, up to two levee boards, executive branch members from local governments in upland parishes, Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry, and industry representatives, specifically the executive directors of the Red River Valley Association and Ouachita River Valley Association, and the Tensas Basin Levee District. New law limits the board's composition to no more than two port directors and one levee board member.

New law details the board's responsibilities, including developing, approving, and overseeing master and annual plans. Plans developed by the board require submission and approval by the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, and the House and Senate committees on transportation, highways, and public works. Legislative committees have the authority to approve, disapprove, or request revisions. Plans are subject to comprehensive public hearings, input from local authorities, and formal publication in the Louisiana Register and official parish journals.

New law outlines procedural guidelines for plan submission, legislative committee reviews, amendments, and final adoption. Plans must include clear justifications, projected public and private benefits, implementation schedules, and detailed monitoring and maintenance strategies.

New law provides the executive director of the authority oversight of project execution, budget management, personnel administration, and reporting requirements to both the board and the legislature annually. The executive director is appointed by the governor or, if one is not appointed, the director of public works may serve as executive director. New law allows the executive director authority to employ personnel, delegate responsibilities, approve project plans, specifications, and budgets, and ensure compliance with the authority's master and annual plans.

New law allows authority to enter into contracts, partnerships, and cooperative agreements with federal, state, local governments, and private entities, allowing the acceptance and management of federal grants and matching funds. The authority is also empowered to administer infrastructure projects, perform detailed evaluations, and coordinate all related funding applications.

New law does not apply to private projects that do not utilize public funds.

New law allows emergency projects under authority jurisdiction to proceed under a declared emergency immediately upon written certification of the governor.

New law mandates collaboration between the authority and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, specifically on statewide flood protection strategies. It specifies standards for project assessment, independent reviews, and transparent operations, including broadcasting and archiving board meetings.

New law introduces an infrastructure priority program managed by the authority, designed to systematically evaluate, prioritize, and fund infrastructure projects submitted by political subdivisions, with application criteria and a detailed public review process.

New law prohibits dumping or discharging or permitting to be dumped or discharged into any waters or drains of the state any trees or other objects, substances, or materials which might interfere with drainage. For violations involving integrated upland projects new law authorizes local government to issue such citations for violations and subjects violators to a criminal penalty of no less than \$25 nor more than \$300.

New law is subject to appropriation of funds by the legislature.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 38:2(A)(2) and (3), 5.1, 6, 32(B)(3), 84(A) and (B), 111, 112, 214(C), and R.S. 49:214.6.6(A)(intro para) and (C), 220.41(D), 220.42(B)(5) and (7); adds R.S. 38:90.2(D), 214(D), 2351-2361, and R.S. 49:214.6.3(A)(5), 214.6.6(A)(5), 220.42(B)(9) and (10))