



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 499** HLS 26RS 281
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: March 9, 2026 2:31 PM	Author: MCCORMICK
Dept./Agy.: Conservation & Energy	Analyst: Mimi Blanchard
Subject: Unitization Payments for Non-consenting Pore Space Owners	

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 Provides relative to compensation for pore space owners

Current law requires unitization orders to provide for just and equitable compensation to all owners in interest and to specify a method for determining the distribution of benefits.

Proposed law retains these requirements and further provides that each non-consenting owner in interest must be compensated at a per-acre rate no less than the average paid to other owners in the unit. Proposed law also authorizes the court to request information necessary to determine just compensation when reviewing compensation for non-contracting owners.

Effective August 1, 2026.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW					
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	SEE BELOW					
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	SEE BELOW					
Annual Total						

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental expenditures as a result of this measure.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

The bill mandates that non-consenting pore space owners in any Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) project unitization must be compensated at no less than the average per-acre rate paid to other owners in the unit. C&E reports that the proposed law may affect the economic viability of CCS project participation in Louisiana due to cost considerations. To the extent that participation rates in CCS projects on state-owned lands and water bottoms are affected by the proposed compensation changes, there may be a corresponding impact on state and local revenues, as lease payments generated under state storage agreements adjust to a higher or lower parity rate. Any potential fiscal effect would depend on whether projects proceed and how new units are structured.

There are currently 99 pending Class VI well applications associated with 30 projects statewide. Each Class VI injection well has a one-time application fee of \$100,000, plus \$10,000 for each additional well at a storage facility with total fees capped at \$200,000 for the initial filing. Additionally, a periodic area of review filing fee of \$25,000 is collected within 5 years of first injection. All of these fees are deposited into the Carbon Dioxide Geologic Storage Trust Fund to support regulatory oversight by C&E.

Bonus or lease revenue from Class VI carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects are allocated 40% to the State General Fund, 30% to the Mineral and Energy Operation Fund, and 30% to the parish or parishes (split according to share of acreage) where the injection well is located. For projects located within Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) regulated by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), 100% of the CCS revenue is directed to LDWF for the management of the WMA. Private landowners in parishes in which wells are located may receive royalty payments if their land is included in a unitized storage area, depending on the terms of the operating agreement.

Senate Dual Referral Rules
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

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