

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 595

BY REPRESENTATIVE JACOB LANDRY

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Provides relative to permits required by local governments that impede the development of the state's natural resources

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 30:4.4, relative to development of the state's natural resources; to prohibit
3 local governing authorities from taking actions that impede the state's ability to
4 develop natural resources, including local road permitting; and to provide for related
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 30:4.4 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §4.4. Exclusive jurisdiction

9 It is the intent of the legislature that this Subtitle vests the department with
10 exclusive jurisdiction over the natural resources of the state, including but not limited
11 to regulations, permitting, and related fee schedules. No other political subdivision,
12 local governing authority or municipal or parochial permitting body may use inaction
13 on local permitting decisions to unreasonably interfere with activities permitted by
14 the department. Any application for a local road permit related to a department-
15 permitted activity which has not been approved or denied, with written reasons for
16 denial provided to the applicant, within thirty days of submission shall be deemed
17 approved.

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 595 Engrossed

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Jacob Landry

Abstract: Prohibits local governing authorities from using inaction on local permitting decisions to unreasonably interfere with the state's ability to develop natural resources.

Proposed law provides that the dept. is vested with exclusive authority over the natural resources of the state, including regulations, permitting, and related fee schedules.

Proposed law prohibits local governing authorities from using inaction on permitting decisions to unreasonably interfere with activities permitted by the dept. Provides that applications for local road permits related to activities permitted by the dept. which have not been approved or denied within 30 days are deemed to be approved.

(Adds R.S. 30:4.4)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to the original bill:

1. Specify that the prohibition on the ability of political subdivisions, local governing authorities, or municipal or parochial permitting bodies to enact permitting laws or ordinances related to activities permitted by the Department of Conservation and Energy applies to the ability of those entities to use inaction on local permitting decisions to unreasonably interfere with the department's permitting activities.
2. Require that applications for local road permits related to the activities permitted by the Department of Conservation and Energy that have not been approved or denied with written reasons for denial within 30 days be deemed approved.
3. Make technical changes.