

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 802

BY REPRESENTATIVES SAWYER AND MCMAKIN

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 38:3310, relative to watershed restoration and conservation; to create the
3 Watershed Restoration and Conservation Fund and establish its mechanism for
4 funding; to provide for the expenditures, administration, and reporting of the fund;
5 to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 38:3310 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §3310. Watershed Restoration and Conservation Fund

9 A. There is hereby established in the state treasury as a special fund the
10 Watershed Restoration and Conservation Fund, hereafter referred to in this Section
11 as "the fund".

12 B. The purpose of the fund shall be to support the reclamation, restoration,
13 and long-term stewardship of lands and watersheds within the Amite River Basin
14 impacted by sand and gravel mining operations, with priority given to flood-prone
15 areas and impaired watersheds.

16 C. After allocation of money to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund as
17 provided in Article VII, Section 9(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, the treasurer
18 shall deposit into the fund one hundred percent of the portion of recurring severance
19 tax revenues collected on sand severed from within the geographic boundaries of the
20 district that would have been deposited into the state general fund after allocations
21 of such revenues otherwise required by the Constitution of Louisiana and the
22 Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950. Monies designated for the fund and received
23 by the state treasurer from donations, gifts, grants, or other revenue shall be
24 deposited into the fund.

25 D. Monies in the fund shall be invested in the same manner as monies in the
26 state general fund. Interest earned on investment of monies in the fund shall be

1 credited to the fund. Unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end
2 of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund.

3 E. Monies in the fund shall be appropriated to the Coastal Protection and
4 Restoration Authority for use by the board of commissioners for the Amite River
5 Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District for use as provided in Subsection
6 B of this Section.

7 F. An annual report detailing the receipts, expenditures, and funded activities
8 of the Watershed Restoration and Conservation Fund shall be submitted by the board
9 to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate
10 Committee on Natural Resources by March first of each calendar year.

11 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2026.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____