
DIGEST

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Champagne

HB No. 881

Abstract: Provides relative to receipt and use by parish governing authorities of RESTORE Act funds.

Present Federal Law, the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (the RESTORE Act), provides for the allocation of civil penalties under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, in connection with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Provides for allocation and distribution of some of those funds directly to coastal counties and parishes.

Proposed law provides the following requirements regarding the receipt and use by parishes of RESTORE Act funds:

- (1) The governing authority shall publish a quarterly report indicating the amount of RESTORE funds received during the previous quarter and to date, and indicating how RESTORE funds have been spent or obligated. Requires availability of the report on the parish's website or at the request of a parish resident and submission of a copy to the La Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.
- (2) Prior to an expenditure on a project, the governing authority shall hold a public meeting to receive public comment and suggestions on the project. Requires that such projects be in compliance with the master plan for integrated coastal protection, which is provided for in present law.
- (3) Prohibits commingling of RESTORE funds with other parish funds. Requires that authorizations of expenditure of such funds be itemized in the parish budget.
- (4) Requires additional public notice of any meeting at which the expenditure, investment, or obligation of RESTORE funds will be discussed; requires publication of such notice not more than 60 and not less than 30 days prior to such meeting and announcing of the meeting during the course of a meeting of the parish governing authority no more than 60 days and not less than 30 days before such meeting.

(Adds R.S. 33:1236.30)