
DIGEST

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Thompson

HB No. 782

Abstract: Provides that monies collected by the state from the use or withdrawal of surface water owned by the state shall be deposited into the Aquatic Plant Control Fund to be used for the control and eradication of aquatic weed in Louisiana's water bodies.

Present law authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to collect monies from entities that use or remove surface waters of the state. Present law allows entities who withdraw water from the state to reimburse the state at a fair market value that includes certain economic considerations. Proposed law requires that entities who remove water from bodies, determined by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to be negatively impacted by invasive aquatic vegetation, to reimburse the state at fair market value with no consideration for economic development or other considerations as provided in present law.

Present law establishes the Aquatic Plant Control Fund and deposits into the fund monies from boat trailer registration fees. Present law further provides that monies in the fund shall be used to control and eradicate aquatic weeds. Proposed law retains present law and further deposits monies collected from the use or withdrawal of surface water owned by the state into the Aquatic Plant Control Fund. Proposed law further provides that revenues deposited into the fund from the use of water from bodies with aquatic weed should be used preferably in the treatment of aquatic weed on those bodies of water from which the revenue was generated.

(Amends R.S. 30:961(B) and R.S. 56:10.1(B); Adds R.S. 30:691(J) and (K))