

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 251

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHANEY

AGRICULTURE: Provides relative to the state soil and water conservation commission

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 3:1204(A)(1)(a)(introductory paragraph) and (C)(3), relative to
3 the state soil and water conservation commission; to modify the membership of the
4 soil and water conservation commission; to remove the requirement that the
5 Department of Agriculture and Forestry perform audits on the state soil and water
6 commission; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 3:1204(A)(1)(a)(introductory paragraph) and (C)(3) are hereby
9 amended and reenacted to read as follows:

10 §1204. State soil and water conservation commission

11 A.(1)(a) There is hereby established, to serve as an agency of the state and
12 to perform the functions conferred upon it in this Part, a state soil and water
13 conservation commission. The commission shall consist of ~~eight~~ nine members.

14 The ~~chancellor of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center~~ Louisiana State
15 University Vice President of Agriculture and Dean of the College of Agriculture or
16 its successor, the vice chancellor of the Southern University Agricultural Center, the
17 commissioner of agriculture and forestry of Louisiana, and the president of the
18 Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts shall automatically be members of
19 this commission. Each shall designate a person to represent him at meetings at
20 which he cannot be present, and the person so designated by each shall serve, in the

1 absence of the officer who selects him, with the same power and authority as that
2 officer, including the right to vote. In the case of the Louisiana Association of
3 Conservation Districts president, his alternate shall be the vice president of the
4 association. The other five members shall be elected, one from each of the following
5 areas of the state:

6 * * *

7 C.

8 * * *

9 (3) The commission shall provide for the execution of surety bonds for all
10 employees and officers who shall be entrusted with funds or property; shall provide
11 for the keeping of a full and accurate record of all proceedings and all resolutions,
12 regulations, and orders issued or adopted; shall provide for an annual examination
13 of the accounts of receipts and disbursements and an annual examination of all
14 districts; and shall provide for a complete audit at least once every four years of the
15 accounts of receipts and disbursements ~~and~~ of all districts, ~~all of~~ which shall be
16 ~~performed by the audit and evaluation section of the Department of Agriculture and~~
17 ~~Forestry~~ and filed with the legislative auditor.

18 * * *

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 251 Engrossed 2016 Regular Session Chaney

Abstract: Provides relative to the membership of the state soil and water conservation commission and who performs audits for all of the commissions districts.

Present law specifies that the commission shall consist of eight members.

Proposed law increases the membership of the commission from eight to nine members.

Present law specifies that the chancellor of the Louisiana State University Agriculture Center is a member of the state soil and water conservation commission.

Proposed law modifies present law by replacing the chancellor of the Louisiana State University Agriculture Center with the Louisiana State University Vice President for Agriculture and Dean of the College of Agriculture or its successor.

Proposed law adds the vice chancellor of the Southern University Agricultural Center to the list of automatically appointed members to the commission.

Present law requires audits at least once every four years for all districts within the state soil and water conservation commission to be performed by the audit and evaluation section of the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry and filed with the legislative auditor.

Proposed law modifies present law by removing the requirement that the audit be performed by the audit and evaluation section of the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry.

(Amends R.S. 3:1204(A)(1)(a)(intro. para.) and (C)(3))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development to the original bill:

1. Increase the membership of the state soil and water commission from eight to nine members.
2. Allow the successor of the position of LSU Vice-President of Agriculture and Dean of the College of Agriculture to automatically become a member of the state soil and water commission.
3. Add the vice chancellor of the Southern University Agricultural Center to the state soil and water commission.
4. Make a technical change.