

**FINAL DISPOSITION OF WATER RESOURCE BILLS FROM THE 2016 REGULAR SESSION OF THE
LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE**

JUNE 22, 2016

Blue highlight shows bill signed by Governor into law, or, in the case of resolutions, enrolled, signed/approved, and sent to Secretary of State

All others: Withdrawn, tabled or failed in committee, or otherwise ran out of time

COASTAL ISSUES

HB 160 Zeringue – Authorizes the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government to expropriate property by a declaration of taking for integrated coastal protection projects. Pending Civil Law and Procedure.

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=HB160&sbi=y>

HCR 79 Zeringue – Urges continued support for the efforts in the Mississippi River Basin to achieve the goals of the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan. Passed House, 87-0. Passed Senate, 32-0. Sent to Secretary of State.

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=HCR70&sbi=y>

PUBLIC SUPPLY AND RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

HB 729 Montoucet (Act 444 of 2016) – Regulates the initial assessment and subsequent changes in the rates charged by water cooperatives for water usage. Passed House, 95-0. Passed Senate, 36-0. Signed by Governor.

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=HB729&sbi=y>

HB 823 Hunter – Requires enforcement of the secondary drinking water standards established by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. Failed House final passage.

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=HB823&sbi=y>

HB 995 Jones (Act 605 of 2016) – Increases the safe drinking water administrative fee. Passed House, 76-20 (w/Senate amendments). Passed Senate, 26-10. Signed by Governor.

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=HB995&sbi=y>

SURFACE WATER AND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

HB 424 Bishop (Act 248 of 2016) – Extends the cooperative endeavor program for use of the state's surface water resources. Passed House, 85-4. Passed Senate, 37-0. Signed by Governor.

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=HB424&sbi=y>

HB 526 R. Carter – Requires permits for industrial users of groundwater that withdraw greater than 100,000 gallons a day. Considered in House Natural Resources, 4/13/16.
<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=HB526&sbi=y>

HB 527 R. Carter – Prohibits the withdrawal of water from a natural and scenic river for the purpose of hydraulic fracturing. Involuntarily deferred, 4/13/16.
<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=HB527&sbi=y>

HB 528 R. Carter – Prohibits the withdrawal of water from a natural and scenic river or ground water for the purpose of hydraulic fracturing. Pending House Natural Resources.
<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=HB528&sbi=y>

HB 553 Marcelle – Designates East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, West Feliciana, and Pointe Coupee as a critical area of groundwater concern and provides for limits on membership on certain governing bodies and restrictions on groundwater use in critical areas. Involuntarily deferred, 4/27/16.
<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=HB553&sbi=y>

HB 703 R. Johnson – Prohibits the withdrawal of water from Spring Bayou in Avoyelles Parish. Pending House Natural Resources.
<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=HB703&sbi=y>

HCR 110 Carter – Urges and requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Natural Resources to study the use of water from natural and scenic rivers for certain uses. Passed House, 85-2. Passed Senate, 32-0. Sent to Secretary of State. <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=HCR110&sbi=y>

HCR 115 Carter – Urges and requests the Office of Conservation to study the effects of ground water withdrawals from the Southern Hills Aquifer System. Passed House, 79-3. Passed Senate, 33-0. Sent to Secretary of State.
<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=HCR115&sbi=y>

DRAINAGE, SERVITUDE, PUBLIC USAGE

HB 564 Richard – Includes fishing as an authorized public use of the bank of a navigable stream or waterway. Withdrawn from files of the House.
<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=HB564&sbi=y>

HB 565 Richard – Provides relative to access by boat for limited purposes to waters that have overflowed the banks of navigable streams or waterways. Withdrawn from files of the House. <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=HB565&sbi=y>

SB26 Allain – Clarifies existing law regarding natural drainage of surface waters and servitude between servient and dominant estates. Passed Senate, 33-3. Passed House, 84-0. House amendments rejected by Senate, 36-0. Pending in conference committee.
<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=SB26&sbi=y>

PORTS AND HARBORS

HB 853 R. Johnson (Act 594 of 2016) – Changes the composition of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission and provides for additional authority of the commission. Passed House (conference committee report), 95-0. Passed Senate (conference committee report), 32-2. Signed by Governor.
<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=HB853&sbi=y>

SB 31 Mills (Act 325 of 2016) – Expands authority of the Greater Krotz Springs Port Commission to issue general obligation bonds, enter into contracts and agreements, undertake economic development initiatives, etc. Passed Senate, 36-0. Passed House, 82-0. Signed by Governor.
<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=SB31&sbi=y>

SB 51 Johns – Authorizes the board of the Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District to levy additional mills of ad valorem tax to be dedicated to channel operation, maintenance, and improvement. Pending Transportation, Highways, and Public Works.
<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=SB51&sbi=y>

SB 82 Morrish (Act 331 of 2016) – Creates the Cameron Parish Port, Harbor, and Terminal District. Passed Senate, 37-0. Passed House, 81-0. Signed by Governor.
<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=SB82&sbi=y>

ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

HB 154 Montoucet – Limits the power of the Public Service Commission to regulate nonprofit water utility cooperatives wholly owned by water users. Constitutional Amendment. Reported favorably House Commerce, 15-0. Recommended to House Civil Law and Procedure. <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=HB154&sbi=y>

HB 251 Chaney (Act 42 of 2016) – Provides relative to the membership of the state soil and water conservation commission and who performs audits for all of the commission's districts. Passed House, 95-0 (w/Senate amendments). Passed Senate, 35-1. Signed by Governor.
<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=HB251&sbi=y>

HCR 36 Thibaut – Extends the False River Watershed Council for one year to June 30, 2017. Passed House, 91-0. Passed Senate, 36-0. Sent to Secretary of State.

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=HCR36&sbi=y>

HCR 39 Hodges – To continue the Comite River Diversion Canal Task Force for the purpose of studying and making recommendations on the actions necessary to complete the Comite River Diversion Canal Project. Passed House, 80-0. Passed Senate, 32-0. Sent to Secretary of State.

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=HCR39&sbi=y>

SB 140 Walsworth (Act 378 of 2016) – Creates Office of Environmental Assessment within the Department of Environmental Quality which shall provide for environmental air quality assessment, water quality assessment, and technology and shall administer all remediation services and such duties as delegated by the secretary. Passed Senate, 37-0. Passed House, 89-0. Signed by Governor.

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=SB140&sbi=y>

SB 373 Mizell (Act 513 of 2016) – Repeals the Washington Parish Reservoir District. Passed Senate, 36-0 (w/House amendments). Passed House, 100-0. Signed by Governor.

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=SB373&sbi=y>

SB 415 Gatti – Creates Lake Bistineau Recreation and Water Conservation District. Passed Senate, 35-0. Pending House Transportation, Highways, and Public Works.

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=SB415&sbi=y>

SCR 2 Ward– Approves the Atchafalaya Basin Annual Plan for FY 2017. Passed Senate, 37-0. Passed House, 85-0. Sent to Secretary of State.

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=SCR2&sbi=y>

SCR 77 Thompson – Extends the sunset of the Lake Providence Watershed Council until December 31, 2018. Passed Senate, 33-0. Passed House, 95-0. Sent to Secretary of State. <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=SCR77&sbi=y>

SR 123 Hewitt – Re-creates the Lower Pearl River Basin Ecosystem Study Commission. Passed Senate. Sent to Secretary of State.

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=16RS&b=SR123&sbi=y>