

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE BILL NO. 200

BY SENATOR MILLS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

SALT DOMES. Prohibits the issuance of certain permits to create or convert a solution mined cavern for storage purposes. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT
2 To enact R.S. 30:23.1, relative to permits for solution mined cavern wells; to provide for the
3 prohibition of certain permits on state owned water bottoms; to provide terms,
4 conditions, and requirements; and to provide for related matters.
5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
6 Section 1. R.S. 30:23.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:
7 **§23.1 Permits for solution mined caverns near salt domes; prohibition on state**
8 **leases of state owned water bottoms acreage**
9 **A. For the purposes of this Section, "solution mined cavern" means a**
10 **cavity created within the salt stock by dissolution with water.**
11 **B. The legislature finds that Louisiana contains a significant number of**
12 **underground salt dome formations and these formations have been subject to**
13 **catastrophic influences caused by certain activities, permitted by the state and**
14 **conducted in close proximity to salt domes and adjacent formations.**
15 **C. In order to protect our precious water resources, the commissioner**
16 **of conservation shall not authorize or issue any permits for the creation of a**
17 **solution mined cavern or to convert a solution mined cavern to storage or waste**

1 **disposal in any area where the salt stock underlying a state owned water bottom**
2 **has structurally failed if that failure was man made.**

3 **D. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to the United States**
4 **Strategic Petroleum Reserve or any entity regulated by the Offshore Terminal**
5 **Authority.**

6 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
7 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
8 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
9 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
10 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument was prepared by Heyward Jeffers. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by McHenry Lee.

DIGEST

Mills (SB 200)

Proposed law provides a definition for "solution mined caverns".

Proposed law provides that the legislature finds that La. contains a number of salt dome formations which have been subject to catastrophic influences caused by certain activities permitted by the state and conducted in close proximity to salt domes and adjacent formations.

Proposed law prohibits the commissioner of conservation from issuing permits for the creation of a solution mined cavern or to convert a solution mined cavern to storage or waste disposal in any area where the salt stock underlying a state owned water bottom has structurally failed if that failure was man made.

Proposed law provides an exception for the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve or any entity regulated by the Offshore Terminal Authority.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 30:23.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Natural Resources to the original bill

1. Removes certain legislative findings.
2. Replaces provisions of proposed law.
3. Prohibits the commissioner from issuing certain solution mined cavern

permits.

4. Adds certain exemptions.