

Regular Session, 2011

SENATE BILL NO. 48

BY SENATOR LONG

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

WATER QUALITY. Provides for the membership, powers, and duties of the Ground Water Management Advisory Task Force. (8/15/11)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 36:359(L) and R.S. 38:3097.7 and to repeal Section 4 of Act No. 446 of the 2001 Regular Session of the Legislature and Section 5 of Act No. 49 of the 2003 Regular Session of the Legislature, relative to the Ground Water Management Advisory Task Force; to provide for the membership of the task force; to provide powers, duties, terms and conditions; to provide for the meeting requirements of the task force; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 36:359(L) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§359. Transfer of agencies and functions to Department of Natural Resources

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**L. The Ground Water Management Advisory Task Force shall be placed within the office of conservation, Department of Natural Resources, and shall perform its powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities in the manner provided by law.**

Section 2. R.S. 38:3097.7 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

**§3097.7. Ground Water Management Advisory Task Force**

1                    **A. A comprehensive ground water management program must continue**  
2                    **to be developed and implemented. To that end, there is hereby created a**  
3                    **Ground Water Management Advisory Task Force with membership as follows:**

4                    **(1) A person representing the office of the governor appointed by the**  
5                    **governor.**

6                    **(2) The president of the Louisiana Senate or his designee.**

7                    **(3) The speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives or his**  
8                    **designee.**

9                    **(4) The chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources or his**  
10                   **designee.**

11                   **(5) The chair of the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality or his**  
12                   **designee.**

13                   **(6) The chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources and**  
14                   **Environment or his designee.**

15                   **(7) The district engineer of the United States Army Corps of Engineers,**  
16                   **New Orleans District, or his designee.**

17                   **(8) The Louisiana State Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources**  
18                   **Conservation Service or his designee.**

19                   **(9) The chancellor of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center**  
20                   **or his designee.**

21                   **(10) The executive director of the state soil and water conservation**  
22                   **committee.**

23                   **(11) The Louisiana district chief, United States Geological Survey,**  
24                   **Water Resources Division, or his designee.**

25                   **(12) The director of the Louisiana Geological Survey or his designee.**

26                   **(13) The executive director of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation or his**  
27                   **designee.**

28                   **(14) The president of the Louisiana Farm Bureau or his designee.**

29                   **(15) The president of the Louisiana Chemical Association or his**

- 1            **designee.**
- 2                    **(16) The executive director of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana**
- 3            **or his designee.**
- 4                    **(17) The president of the Louisiana Rice Growers Association or his**
- 5            **designee.**
- 6                    **(18) The executive director of Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas**
- 7            **Association or his designee.**
- 8                    **(19) The president of the Cotton Producers Association or his designee.**
- 9                    **(20) One representative of the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation**
- 10           **District.**
- 11                   **(21) One representative of the Sparta Groundwater Conservation**
- 12           **District.**
- 13                   **(22) The executive director of the Louisiana Forestry Association or his**
- 14           **designee.**
- 15                   **(23) One representative of the Sabine River Authority.**
- 16                   **(24) The president of the American Sugar Cane League or his designee.**
- 17                   **(25) One representative of the Red River Compact Commission.**
- 18                   **(26) The executive director of the Lake Pontchartrain Foundation or his**
- 19           **designee.**
- 20                   **(27) The executive director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National**
- 21           **Estuary Program or his designee.**
- 22                   **(28) The president of the Louisiana Crawfish Farmers Association or his**
- 23           **designee.**
- 24                   **(29) The chairman of the Louisiana Pulp and Paper Association or his**
- 25           **designee.**
- 26                   **(30) A representative of the Louisiana Engineering Society who is a**
- 27           **registered engineer with reservoir experience.**
- 28                   **(31) A representative from Louisiana State University, Department of**
- 29           **Geology.**

1                   **(32) A representative from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette,**  
2                   **Department of Geology.**

3                   **(33) A representative of the Association of Public Utilities.**

4                   **(34) A representative of the League of Women Voters.**

5                   **(35) A representative of the Citizens for a Clean Environment.**

6                   **(36) A representative of Louisiana Independent Oil and Gas Association.**

7                   **(37) A representative from the Louisiana State University at Shreveport**  
8                   **Watershed Management Initiative.**

9                   **(38) A representative of the Municipal Water Association.**

10                  **(39) A representative of the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board.**

11                  **(40) One representative of the Louisiana Rural Water Association.**

12                  **(41) The president of the Louisiana Soybean Association or his designee.**

13                  **(42) The president of the Louisiana Cattlemen Association or his**  
14                  **designee.**

15                  **(43) A representative of the Louisiana Ground Water Association.**

16                  **(44) The dean of the Southern University College of Agriculture, Family,**  
17                  **and Consumer Science or his designee**

18                  **(45) A representative of the Irrigation Association.**

19                  **B. The Ground Water Management Advisory Task Force shall assist the**  
20                  **commissioner of conservation and the Ground Water Resource Commission in**  
21                  **continuing to develop a statewide ground water resource management program.**

22                  **Such ground water management program shall include but not be limited to**  
23                  **evaluation of the state's ground water resources including current and**  
24                  **projected demands on the aquifers of the state; development of a water use**  
25                  **conservation program; study of alternatives to ground water use, such as**  
26                  **surface water to include treatment and transmission system, and reclaimed**  
27                  **water; incentives for conservation; use of alternative technologies; and**  
28                  **education and conservation programs. The plan should stress conservation as**  
29                  **the primary mechanism for the protection of the state's ground water resources.**

1                    **C.(1) Fifteen members of the task force shall constitute a quorum. A**  
 2                    **quorum being present, the favorable vote of at least ten members of the task**  
 3                    **force or a simple majority of the total membership present, whichever is**  
 4                    **greater, shall be required for the commission to take action on any matter.**

5                    **(2) The task force shall meet at least once per year, or more frequently**  
 6                    **as necessary. The task force shall report to the commissioner and the**  
 7                    **commission periodically on the activities and progress of the task force on**  
 8                    **continuing to develop the comprehensive ground water management program.**

9                    Section 2. Section 4 of Act No. 446 of the 2001 Regular Session of the Legislature  
 10                    and Section 5 of Act No. 49 of the 2003 Regular Session of the Legislature are hereby  
 11                    repealed.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by J. W. Wiley.

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#### DIGEST

Present law provides for the membership of the Ground Water Management Advisory Task Force, for the powers and duties of the task force, and for the meeting requirements of the task force.

Proposed law changes the membership and meeting requirements of the task force.

Proposed law provides that 15 members of the task force will constitute a quorum. Further provides that a quorum being present, the favorable vote of at least 10 members of the task force or a simple majority of the total membership present, whichever is greater, will be required for the commission to take action on any matter.

Effective August 15, 2011.

(Adds R.S. 36:359(L) and R.S. 38:3097.7; repeals Section 4 of Act No. 446 of 2001 R.S. and Section 5 of Act No. 49 of 2003 R.S.)