

SENATE BILL NO. 48

BY SENATOR LONG

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

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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**

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

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

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

1           **(3) The speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives or his**  
2           **designee.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

15          **(10) The executive director of the State Soil and Water Conservation**  
16          **Commission or his designee.**

17          **(11) The director of the United States Geological Survey, Louisiana**  
18          **Water Science Center or his designee.**

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

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

22          **(14) The president of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation or his**  
23          **designee.**

24          **(15) The president of the Louisiana Chemical Association or his**  
25          **designee.**

26          **(16) The executive director of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana**  
27          **or his designee.**

28          **(17) The president of the Louisiana Rice Growers Association or his**  
29          **designee.**

30          **(18) The executive director of Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas**

1           Association or his designee.

2                   (19) The president of the Louisiana Cotton and Grain Association or his  
3           designee.

4                   (20) One representative of the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation  
5           District.

6                   (21) One representative of the Sparta Groundwater Conservation  
7           District.

8                   (22) The executive director of the Louisiana Forestry Association or his  
9           designee.

10                  (23) One representative of the Sabine River Authority.

11                  (24) The president of the American Sugar Cane League or his designee.

12                  (25) One representative of the Red River Compact Commission.

13                  (26) The executive director of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation  
14           or his designee.

15                  (27) The executive director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National  
16           Estuary Program or his designee.

17                  (28) The president of the Louisiana Crawfish Farmers Association or his  
18           designee.

19                  (29) The chairman of the Louisiana Pulp and Paper Association or his  
20           designee.

21                  (30) A representative of the Louisiana Engineering Society who is a  
22           registered engineer with water resources management experience.

23                  (31) A representative from Louisiana State University, Department of  
24           Geology and Geophysics.

25                  (32) A representative from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette,  
26           Department of Geology.

27                  (33) A representative of the Association of Electric Utilities.

28                  (34) A representative of the League of Women Voters.

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

30                  (36) A representative of the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association.

1                   (37) A representative from the Louisiana State University at Shreveport,  
2                   Red River Watershed Management Initiative.

3                   (38) A representative of the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board.

4                   (39) One representative of the Louisiana Rural Water Association.

5                   (40) The president of the Louisiana Soybean Association or his designee.

6                   (41) The president of the Louisiana Cattlemen Association or his  
7                   designee.

8                   (42) A representative of the Louisiana Ground Water Association.

9                   (43) The dean of the Southern University College of Agriculture, Family,  
10                  and Consumer Science or his designee.

11                  (44) A representative of the Irrigation Association.

12                  B. The Ground Water Management Advisory Task Force shall assist the  
13                  commissioner of conservation and the Ground Water Resource Commission in  
14                  continuing to develop a statewide ground water resource management program.  
15                  Such ground water management program shall include but not be limited to  
16                  evaluation of the state's ground water resources including current and  
17                  projected demands on the aquifers of the state; development of a water use  
18                  conservation program; study of alternatives to ground water use, such as  
19                  surface water to include treatment and transmission system, and reclaimed  
20                  water; incentives for conservation; use of alternative technologies; and  
21                  education and conservation programs. The plan should stress conservation as  
22                  the primary mechanism for the protection of the state's ground water resources.

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

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

1           Section 3. Section 4 of Act No. 446 of the 2001 Regular Session of the Legislature  
2           and Section 5 of Act No. 49 of the 2003 Regular Session of the Legislature are hereby  
3           repealed.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_