

CURRENT Authority Legislative Update

Act 358 of 2026 LA Legislative Session

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Legislative Path

Act 358 was enacted through consensus to provide refinements to the authorities of DOTD and the **CURRENT Authority**

- Introduced as Senate Bill 171 by Senator Thomas Pressly
- Passed Senate 33 - 0
- Passed House 97 - 0
- Signed by Governor Jeff Landry on May 22, 2026
- Effective date of August 1, 2026



Updates Related to CURRENT Authority

Act fine tunes CURRENT's board composition, oversight, mission, scope, and coordination duties.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

- Membership increased by an additional levee board member to 17
- CPRA's Executive Director, or designee, added as a non-voting member
- Members are subject to Senate confirmation

LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

- Directs legislative approval of CURRENT Authority's Master and Annual plans to the Transportation, Highways, and Public Works committees
- Reduces procedural steps by removing House and Senate Natural Resource Committees from formal process

MISSION DEFINITION

- Elaboration of authorities to include floodplain management and watershed management
- Removed specific water quantity authority
- Clarifies that risk reduction measures are flood-related

SCOPE REFINEMENT

- Master and Annual Plans apply to area outside the coastal area, not the coastal zone
- Revised statutory references from "upland" to non-coastal for greater clarity

COORDINATION

- For jointly developed integrated flood protection strategies with CPRA, CURRENT Authority's role is clarified to encompass flood control infrastructure in non-coastal area
- CURRENT Authority to work with levee districts, drainage districts, and port commissions in non-coastal Louisiana, not superseding constitutional and statutory authorities given to such entities

Updates Related to DOTD's Transformation

Act adjusts certain duties from within DOTD and the Chief Resilience Officer to secretarial level

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP)

- Clarifies DOTD's longstanding role as state agency source for NFIP assistance
 - Localities to work with DOTD adopt ordinances, rules, and regulations for FEMA compliance
 - DOTD to work directly with FEMA's Federal Insurance Administrator to help localities qualify for NFIP
 - Chief Resilience Officer role in supporting flood insurance is correspondingly refined

RED RIVER COMPACT COMMISSION

- Changed its representation from DOTD from chief engineer to Secretary or his designee

GRANT SEEKING

- DOTD agency wide is authorized to apply for planning grants from federal government to give planning assistance to local entities, not just DOTD's Office of Public Works.