



Jeff Landry  
Governor

# State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
P.O. BOX 94004  
BATON ROUGE  
70804-9004

## NRSC-7-2024: OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT

The Office of Enforcement working group was tasked with reviewing the newly created Office of Enforcement within DENR. The working group recommended moving all enforcement functions to the new office and to investigate any unintended consequences, such as financial issues or loss of statutory authority. Currently, there is no one location for enforcement within DENR. Enforcement functions, much like permitting functions, are spread across the agency. This structure can result in inefficiency from overlap and duplication, as well as a lack of a clear path forward for non-compliant operators.

The proposed Office of Enforcement, created during the 2024 regular session, can remedy this situation. Modernizing and streamlining all enforcement functions into one office will help prevent inefficiency from duplication of efforts and will provide a well-defined pathway for operators who have gone out of compliance. As part of this process, Office of Enforcement should explore ways to notify other agencies, such as Louisiana Economic Development, Department of Environmental Quality, to name a few. By notifying other agencies, the magnitude of enforcement increases without a need for statutory changes. Further, the DENR should prioritize technology solutions and ways to incorporate into other agencies' existing processes to efficiently administer their programs, especially on matters that other state agencies are sophisticated. For example, DENR should explore ways for debt collection, bankruptcy, audits, and other matters related to the financial operations of its regulated community.

Overall, the NRSC agrees the Office of Enforcement should oversee enforcement of federal programs, state programs, management of district offices, and explore audit and debt recovery functions for the state's natural resources management based on existing agency systems. The first step should be whether the audit function provides an opportunity to recover revenue which might otherwise never be realized by the state. A more efficient administration of the audit function immediately provides increased auditing capability, a matter raised by the Land & Water working group at the NRSC's meeting. In conclusion, the NRSC recommends the Office of Enforcement be given authority over enforcement of DENR's existing state and federal programs, management of all district offices, and over the auditing functions located within DENR. However, the NRSC formally requests the DENR continue investigation of ways for collaboration and notification within existing state government protocols, focusing on communication and efficient administration using technology.