

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



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June 29, 2021

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Honorable Page Cortez
Louisiana Senate President
Louisiana State Senate
Post Office Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Veto of Senate Bill 203 of the 2021 Regular Session

Dear President Cortez:

Please be advised that I have vetoed Senate Bill 203 of the 2021 Regular Session.

This bill is intended to provide for an exception in the Code of Governmental Ethics for certain appointees on the Capitol Area Groundwater Commission. The bill would both retroactively clear several former members of the Commission from current ethics charges and would allow for a blanket exception to the ethics code going forward for members appointed pursuant to La. R.S. 38:3074(A)(2) and (3).¹ While I understand the dilemma for the members with ethics charges who may have inadvertently violated the code of ethics, I do not agree that there should be a prospective exception. The industrial users of the aquifer can provide nominations of individuals that will not run afoul of the ethics code, and my most recent appointees to the Commission do not have this issue. Should the legislature come back in the next session with an exception that is narrowly drafted to cure a previous inadvertent violation, I will support it. I cannot support a broad exception for all members in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bel Edwards".

John Bel Edwards
Governor

cc: Honorable Clay Schexnayder
Speaker of the House of Representatives

¹ For La. R.S. 38:3074(A)(3) the bill only applies to the member from a privately owned entity that furnishes water in the district.

2021 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 203

BY SENATOR WHITE

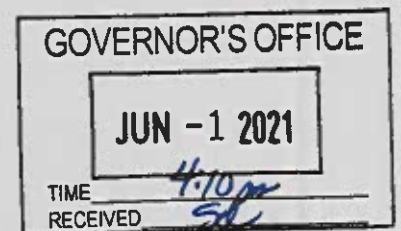
Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.



ORIGINATED

IN THE

SENATE




SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 203

BY SENATOR WHITE

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. 42:1123(47), relative to certain members of the boards of commissioners of groundwater districts; to provide for exemptions to the Code of Governmental Ethics; to provide for applicability; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 42:1123(47) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1123. Exceptions

This Part shall not preclude:

* * *

(47) A member of the board of commissioners of a groundwater district who is nominated by an industrial user or by a privately owned entity that furnishes water for rural or municipal use within the district and who is appointed or commissioned by the governor and confirmed by the Senate, all pursuant to law, and who, at the time of nomination, is employed by, rendering compensated services to, or participating in a transaction with the member's respective nominating entity from being employed by, rendering compensated services to, or participating in transactions with the member's respective nominating entity.

Section 2. The provisions of this Act shall be considered remedial and interpretive and shall be applied retroactively and prospectively.

Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If

1 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
2 effective on the day following such approval.




PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: 
06/21/2021

