

Proposed constitutional amendment authorizes the legislature to provide by law for a program to assist Louisiana farmers with support and expansion of their industry.

Proposed constitutional amendment establishes the Agricultural Product Support Fund as a special treasury fund and provides that the sources of monies in the fund shall be monies received from the licensing of trademarks or labels used in promotion of Louisiana agricultural products, and grants, gifts and donations received by the state for purposes of the farmer assistance program. Monies appropriated from the fund shall be used by the Department of Economic Development for support of the farmer's assistance program. Unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund. Monies in the fund shall be invested in the same manner as the state general fund.

Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held on November 2, 2004.

(Adds Const. Art. VII, §10.12)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the engrossed bill.

1. Changed the purpose of the program from assistance to dairy farmers to assistance to Louisiana farmers.
2. Changed the name of the special treasury fund from the Dairy Farmer Support Fund to the Agricultural Product Support Fund.
3. Changed the agency to administer the program and receive appropriations from the fund from the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to the Department of Economic Development.