

ACT No. 430

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 765

BY REPRESENTATIVE ANDERS

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 3:3402(17) and (18), 3403(A)(5), 3405(A)(3), (4), and (B)(7),
3 3409, 3410, 3410.1, 3410.2, 3411, 3412, and 3414.4, to enact R.S. 3:3402(19) and
4 3412.1, and to repeal R.S. 3:3411.1, relative to the Agricultural Commodities Dealer
5 and Warehouse Law; to provide for security and provisional stock insurance
6 requirements; to remove the bond requirement from the law; to provide a purpose
7 and additional guidelines for the self-insurance fund; to provide guidelines for
8 reimbursement for agricultural commodities; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 3:3402(17) and (18), 3403(A)(5), 3405(A)(3), (4), and (B)(7), 3409,
11 3410, 3410.1, 3410.2, 3411, 3412, and 3414.4 are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
12 3:3402(19) and 3412.1 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 §3402. Definitions

14 As used in this Chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed below:

15 * * *

16 (17) "Security" means any financial instrument or document issued for the
17 benefit of or given to the commission by a licensee, or participation in any self-
18 insurance fund program authorized by this Chapter as assurance for the fulfillment
19 of the obligations imposed on the licensee by applicable law or regulations.

20 ~~(17)~~ (18) "Warehouse" means any building, structure, or any other protected
21 enclosure required to be licensed by the commission in which agricultural
22 commodities or other farm products are stored for the public for a fee. The term

1 includes facilities which commingle commodities belonging to different owners and
2 facilities which preserve the separate identities of different lots of agricultural
3 commodities.

4 ~~(18)~~ (19) "Warehouseman" means any person or other entity operating a
5 warehouse.

6 §3403. Louisiana Agricultural Commodities Commission; creation; membership;
7 terms; panels of nominees; filling of vacancies; oaths of office; per diem;
8 quorum; domicile; meetings; successor to State Warehouse Commission

9 A. The Louisiana Agricultural Commodities Commission is hereby created
10 within the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and shall consist of ten members,
11 nine to be appointed by the commissioner as follows:

12 * * *

13 (5) One commodity ~~broker~~ trader who is licensed to trade on a commodity
14 ~~exchange and who is familiar with the trading of futures contracts affecting the~~
15 commodities executes future trades related to a hedging program for purchases or
16 sales of commodities regulated under this Chapter, appointed from a list of three
17 persons nominated by the commissioner.

18 * * *

19 §3405. Powers and duties of the commission

20 A. The commission shall:

21 * * *

22 (3) Issue licenses to warehouses regulated under this Chapter, under such
23 terms and conditions as the commission may, by regulation, determine to be
24 appropriate, provided that the commission shall require such warehouses to be of
25 sound construction, ~~and to be bonded~~ provide security, and ~~be~~ insured as required
26 under this Chapter.

27 (4) Issue licenses to grain dealers, provided that such persons shall ~~be~~
28 bonded provide security and ~~be~~ insured as required under this Chapter.

29 * * *

1 B. The commission may:

2 * * *

3 (7) Sue to recover on or enforce on behalf of any producer, solely for the use
4 and benefit of the producer, who is injured by the breach of any obligation secured
5 by the bond security required under this Chapter and to sue any licensee to recover
6 any payment of a claim from the Self-Insurance Fund or the Grain and Cotton
7 Indemnity Fund, or both, pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 3:3412 and 3412.1
8 respectively.

9 * * *

10 §3409. Security and provisional stock insurance required as a condition of license,
11 time of filing; amount of security; approval; notice of cancellation; changes
12 in licensed capacity; failure to maintain security and insurance in full force
13 and effect.

14 A. Prior to issuance of the license, an applicant for a warehouse, grain dealer,
15 or cotton merchant license shall furnish to and file with the commission security and
16 provisional stock insurance as a condition for issuance of the license.

17 B. The security shall be for the faithful performance of all duties and
18 obligations of the prospective licensee, and for compliance with this Chapter and the
19 rules and regulations adopted by the commission pursuant to this Chapter.

20 C. The security required by this Chapter shall be in favor of the commission
21 and shall be in the form of one of the following:

22 (1) A surety bond, issued by a bonding or surety company authorized to do
23 business in this state.

24 (2) A certificate of deposit from a financial institution whose deposits are
25 insured by an agency of the federal government.

26 (3) An irrevocable letter of credit from a financial institution whose deposits
27 are insured by an agency of the federal government.

28 (4) Participation in the Self-Insurance Fund in accordance with and as
29 provided by R.S. 3:3412.

30 (5) Any other security determined to be adequate by the commission.

1 D. The security required by this Chapter for warehouse licenses shall
2 conform to the following:

3 (1) The security provided by the applicant for a warehouse license shall
4 cover the same facilities covered by the warehouse license.

5 (2) The amount of the security shall be determined by the total licensed
6 capacity of the facilities to be covered by the security, as follows:

7 (a) Twenty cents per bushel for the first million bushels of licensed capacity.

8 (b) Fifteen cents per bushel for the second million bushels of licensed
9 capacity.

10 (c) Ten cents per bushel for all bushels over two million bushels of licensed
11 capacity.

12 (3) Whenever the licensed warehouse capacity changes, the amount of the
13 security shall be amended to conform to the current licensed capacity of the facility
14 or facilities covered by the security.

15 (4) In any case, the net amount of the security shall not be less than twenty-
16 five thousand dollars and not more than five hundred thousand dollars.

17 E. The security provided by an applicant for a license as a grain dealer or
18 cotton merchant shall be in the amount of fifty thousand dollars.

19 F. The security furnished by an applicant shall be approved by the
20 commission prior to the issuance of the license.

21 G. Each form of security shall provide for ninety days written notice to the
22 commission prior to cancellation.

23 H. The commission shall be the sole owner of the security and shall be the
24 sole party entitled to sue upon, recover, or enforce the security. Any other person or
25 party, including, without limitation, any licensee, person, producer, cotton farmer or
26 agent, or creditor who has a claim against a licensee, shall have no ownership or
27 other interest in the security and shall have no right to sue upon, recover, or enforce
28 the security, except pursuant to the commission's administrative procedures.

29 (1) The security furnished by each licensee shall be for the exclusive use and
30 benefit of any person, producer, or cotton farmer or agent that has a claim against

1 that licensee pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter and as determined by the
 2 commission pursuant to its administrative procedures.

3 (2) Any claim on the security by a person against a warehouse licensee, a
 4 producer against a grain dealer licensee, or a cotton farmer or agent against a cotton
 5 merchant licensee shall be submitted to the commission pursuant to its administrative
 6 procedures and, after being determined by the commission to be a valid claim under
 7 this Chapter, shall be paid from the commission's recovery on the security.

8 (3) Should the claim against the licensee not be satisfied in full through the
 9 commission's administrative procedures the claimant shall retain all other rights
 10 possessed under the law without prejudice.

11 I. The commission shall require every licensee to maintain a sufficient
 12 amount of provisional stock insurance issued by an insurance company authorized
 13 to do business in this state to provide adequate protection against fire and other
 14 disasters, for the full market value of all agricultural commodities physically in the
 15 possession of the licensee, which insurance shall provide for thirty days written
 16 notice to the commission prior to cancellation.

17 J.(1) The security and provisional stock insurance shall be:
 18 (a) Kept in full force and effect as a condition of continuing licensure.
 19 (b) Open for public inspection by the commission.

20 (2) The licensee shall pay all fees and expenses involved in providing the
 21 security and provisional stock insurance.

22 K. The commission may suspend or revoke the license of any licensee who
 23 fails to maintain the required security and insurance in full force and effect.

24 ~~§3410. Bond required as a condition of warehouse license, time of filing; amount~~
 25 ~~of bond, minimum and maximum; approval; notice of cancellation; changes~~
 26 ~~in licensed capacity; insurance; alternate security; failure to maintain bond~~
 27 ~~and insurance in full force and effect~~

28 ~~A. Each applicant for a warehouse license shall, prior to issuance of the~~
 29 ~~license, execute and file with the commission a surety bond, issued by a bonding or~~
 30 ~~surety company authorized to do business in this state and conditioned upon (1) the~~

1 faithful performance of all duties and obligations to the patrons of the warehouse,
 2 and (2) compliance with this Chapter and the rules and regulations adopted pursuant
 3 hereto:

4 ~~B. The bond shall cover the same facilities covered by the warehouse~~
 5 ~~license.~~

6 ~~C. The amount of the bond shall be determined by the total licensed capacity~~
 7 ~~of the facilities to be covered by the bond, as follows:~~

8 ~~(1) Twenty cents per bushel for the first million bushels of licensed capacity.~~

9 ~~(2) Fifteen cents per bushel for the second million bushels of licensed~~
 10 ~~capacity.~~

11 ~~(3) Ten cents per bushel for all bushels over two million bushels of licensed~~
 12 ~~capacity.~~

13 ~~D. In any case, the net amount of the bond shall not be less than twenty-five~~
 14 ~~thousand dollars and not more than five hundred thousand dollars.~~

15 ~~E. Each bond shall be approved by the commission prior to the issuance of~~
 16 ~~the warehouse license.~~

17 ~~F. Each bond shall provide for ninety days written notice to the commission~~
 18 ~~prior to cancellation.~~

19 ~~G. Whenever the licensed warehouse capacity changes, the amount of the~~
 20 ~~bond shall be amended to conform with the current licensed capacity of the facility~~
 21 ~~or facilities covered by the bond.~~

22 ~~H. The commission may accept alternate security in lieu of the bond required~~
 23 ~~under Subsection C of this Section. The alternate security shall be in the same~~
 24 ~~amount as the amount of the bond required in Subsection C of this Section and shall~~
 25 ~~be in one of the following forms:~~

26 ~~(1) A certificate of deposit from a lending institution whose deposits are~~
 27 ~~insured by an agency of the federal government.~~

28 ~~(2) An irrevocable letter of credit from a lending institution whose deposits~~
 29 ~~are insured by an agency of the federal government.~~

1 ~~(3) A first mortgage on immovable property which is located in Louisiana~~
 2 ~~and which has an appraised value of at least one hundred fifty percent of the amount~~
 3 ~~of the bond. The appraisal shall be made by an independent appraiser jointly~~
 4 ~~designated by the commission and the applicant. The applicant shall provide a title~~
 5 ~~insurance policy issued by a company authorized to do business in Louisiana in the~~
 6 ~~amount of the required bond with the commission being an insured under the policy.~~
 7 ~~The applicant shall pay all fees involved in providing such security.~~

8 ~~I. The commission shall require the licensed warehouse to maintain~~
 9 ~~provisional stock insurance issued by an insurance company authorized to do~~
 10 ~~business in this state for protection against fire and other disasters in an amount~~
 11 ~~proportionate to the licensed capacity of the facility, for the full market value of all~~
 12 ~~commodities located in the licensed facility, which insurance shall provide for thirty~~
 13 ~~days written notice to the commission prior to cancellation.~~

14 ~~J. The commission may suspend or revoke the license of any warehouse~~
 15 ~~which fails to maintain the required bond and insurance in full force and effect.~~

16 ~~R.S. 3:3409~~ §3410. Warehouse license required prior to operation of warehouse;
 17 demonstration of competency; renewal; fees; licensed capacity; prohibition

18 A. No person shall operate a warehouse wherein any agricultural
 19 commodities or other farm products are stored and a fee is charged for such storage
 20 unless licensed under this Chapter or under the United States Warehouse Act, as
 21 amended.

22 B. The applicant for a warehouse license shall file the application described
 23 in R.S. 3:3408 and demonstrate its competency to engage in the business of
 24 operating a warehouse.

25 C. Each license issued by the commission ~~under~~ pursuant to this Section
 26 shall specify on the face thereof that it is a warehouse license and shall be posted in
 27 all warehouse locations.

28 D. Each warehouse license issued by the commission shall be valid until
 29 June 30 following date of issue and shall be renewed on or before July 1 of each
 30 year.

1 E. The fee for the issuance and the annual renewal of any warehouse license
2 shall be two hundred dollars.

3 F. Each license shall cover all facilities which are owned ~~and/or~~ or leased by
4 the entity to whom the license is issued and used by the entity in the conduct of its
5 business as a warehouse.

6 G. Each license shall specify the licensed capacity of each facility covered
7 by the license.

8 ~~H. The bond and provisional stock insurance required under R.S. 3:3410
9 shall be executed and filed with the commission prior to issuance of the license and
10 shall be kept in full force and effect as a condition of continuing licensure.~~

11 ~~I. Repealed by Acts 2010, No. 767, §2, eff. June 30, 2010.~~

12 J. H. No warehouse license shall be issued unless the facility to be licensed
13 is suitable for the storage of the agricultural commodity to be stored therein. The
14 commission may suspend or revoke any warehouse license whenever any licensed
15 facility becomes unsuitable for storage of the agricultural commodity for which it is
16 designed.

17 ~~K. I.~~ I. No person holding a warehouse license shall engage in any other
18 activities regulated under this Chapter unless he holds a license issued by the
19 commission to engage in such activities.

20 ~~R.S. 3:3411 §3410.1. License to buy or sell agricultural commodities; posting
21 requirements for grain dealers; duration of license; bond required as a condition of
22 a grain dealer license, time of filing, amount of bond, notice of cancellation, alternate
23 security; failure to maintain bond and stock insurance~~

24 A. No person shall engage in the business of buying ~~and/or~~ or selling
25 agricultural commodities from producers unless licensed by the commission. ~~Cotton
26 merchants shall be licensed as provided in R.S. 3:3411.1.~~

27 B. Each applicant for a grain dealer license shall file the application
28 described in R.S. 3:3408 and demonstrate its competency to engage in the business
29 of buying or selling agricultural commodities prior to licensure.

1 C. Each license issued by the commission ~~under~~ pursuant to this Section
2 shall specify on the face thereof that it is a grain dealer license, and shall be posted
3 by the licensee in its principal place of business in this state.

4 D. Each license issued by the commission shall be valid until June thirtieth
5 following the date of issue and shall be renewed on or before July first of each year.

6 E. The fee for issuance and renewal of each license shall be two hundred
7 dollars.

8 ~~F. Prior to the issuance of the license, each applicant for a grain dealer~~
9 ~~license shall execute and file with the commission a surety bond in the amount of~~
10 ~~fifty thousand dollars, issued by a bonding or surety company authorized to do~~
11 ~~business in this state and conditioned upon (1) the faithful performance of all duties~~
12 ~~and obligations to producers, and (2) compliance with this Chapter and the rules and~~
13 ~~regulations adopted pursuant hereto. Each bond shall provide for ninety days written~~
14 ~~notice to the commission prior to cancellation.~~

15 ~~G. The commission may accept alternate security from grain dealers in lieu~~
16 ~~of the bond required under Subsection F of this Section. The alternate security shall~~
17 ~~be in the same amount as the amount of the bond required in Subsection F of this~~
18 ~~Section and shall be in one of the following forms:~~

19 ~~(1) A certificate of deposit from a lending institution whose deposits are~~
20 ~~insured by an agency of the federal government.~~

21 ~~(2) An irrevocable letter of credit from a lending institution whose deposits~~
22 ~~are insured by an agency of the federal government.~~

23 ~~(3) A first mortgage on immovable property which is located in Louisiana~~
24 ~~and which has an appraised value of at least one hundred fifty percent of the amount~~
25 ~~of the bond. The appraisal shall be made by an independent appraiser jointly~~
26 ~~designated by the commission and the applicant. The applicant shall provide a title~~
27 ~~insurance policy issued by a company authorized to do business in Louisiana in the~~
28 ~~amount of the required bond with the commission being an insured under the policy.~~
29 ~~The applicant shall pay all fees involved in providing such security.~~

1 ~~H. The commission shall require every licensed grain dealer to maintain a~~
 2 ~~sufficient amount of provisional stock insurance issued by an insurance company~~
 3 ~~authorized to do business in this state to provide adequate protection against fire and~~
 4 ~~other disasters, for the full market value of all agricultural commodities physically~~
 5 ~~in the possession of the grain dealer, which insurance shall provide for thirty days~~
 6 ~~written notice to the commission prior to cancellation.~~

7 ~~I. The commission may suspend or revoke the license of any grain dealer~~
 8 ~~who fails to maintain the required bond and insurance in full force and effect.~~

9 J. F. Each grain dealer who issues grades for grain shall employ a grain
 10 grader and sampler who is certified to grade and sample the grains for which the
 11 grain dealer issues grades.

12 ~~R.S. 3:3411.1~~ §3410.2. License required prior to engaging in business of
 13 buying or selling cotton; security requirements; agent agreements

14 ~~A.(1)~~ A. Any cotton merchant who purchases or contracts to purchase, either
 15 directly or through a cotton agent, cotton grown or to be grown in this state shall be
 16 licensed by the commission before purchasing or contracting to purchase such
 17 cotton. The license shall authorize cotton merchants and their cotton agents to
 18 purchase or enter into contracts to purchase cotton grown or to be grown in this state.

19 ~~(2)(a)~~ B. Each license issued by the commission under this Section shall
 20 specify on the face thereof that it is a cotton merchant license. A copy of the license
 21 shall be posted by the licensee in all places of business.

22 ~~(b)~~ C. Each license issued by the commission shall be valid until June
 23 thirtieth following the date of issue and shall be renewed on or before July first of
 24 each year.

25 ~~(c)~~ D. The fee for issuance and renewal of each license shall be two hundred
 26 dollars.

27 ~~B.(1) Before such a license shall be issued to a cotton merchant, the~~
 28 ~~applicant shall furnish a bond in the amount of fifty thousand dollars conditioned~~
 29 ~~upon:~~

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

1 (a) ~~The good faith performance of contracts entered into with cotton farmers~~
 2 for cotton sold.

3 (b) ~~Compliance with this Chapter and the rules and regulations adopted~~
 4 pursuant hereto.

5 (2) ~~The premiums and all expenses of the bond shall be borne by the cotton~~
 6 merchant. ~~The bond shall be signed by a surety company authorized to do business~~
 7 in this state with security in favor of the commission, and shall be subject to the
 8 approval of the commission as to form and sufficiency. ~~Such bond shall be filed~~
 9 with the commission where it shall be subject to public inspection. ~~Each bond shall~~
 10 provide for no less than ninety days written notice to the commission prior to
 11 cancellation.

12 ~~C.(1) The commission may accept alternate security from a cotton merchant~~
 13 in lieu of the bond required under Subsection B of this Section. ~~The alternate~~
 14 security shall be in the same amount as the bond required in Subsection B of this
 15 Section and shall be either:

16 (a) ~~A certificate of deposit from a lending institution whose deposits are~~
 17 insured by an agency of the federal government.

18 (b) ~~An irrevocable letter of credit from a lending institution whose deposits~~
 19 are insured by an agency of the federal government.

20 (c) ~~Any other security determined to be adequate by the commission.~~

21 (2) ~~The cotton merchant shall pay all fees involved in providing such~~
 22 security.

23 ~~D: E.~~ E. The commission may require the cotton merchant to submit to an
 24 examination and audit of its accounts, books, and records.

25 ~~E: F.~~ F. No cotton merchant shall purchase cotton grown or to be grown by
 26 producers in this state without having obtained the prescribed license from the
 27 commission as described in Subsection A of this Section. The commission may, for
 28 cause, revoke the license.

29 ~~F: G.~~ G. Each cotton agent shall have a written notarized agency agreement with
 30 all cotton merchants on whose behalf said cotton merchant acts. No cotton agent

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1 shall purchase cotton grown or to be grown in this state until he has obtained a
2 written notarized agency agreement in a form approved by the commission. The
3 commission may require the cotton agent entering into an agency agreement to
4 submit to an examination and audit of his accounts, books, and records. The cost of
5 any examination and audit shall be borne by the cotton agent. The commission may,
6 for cause, revoke the authority of the cotton agent under any written notarized
7 agency agreement.

8 ~~R.S. 3:3412~~ §3411. Grounds for not issuing license

9 The commission may refuse to issue a license to any applicant for a
10 warehouse license, cotton merchant license, or grain dealer license if the commission
11 finds that the warehouse proposed for licensure is not suitable for the storage of
12 agricultural commodities, or if the commission finds that the applicant for a
13 warehouse license, cotton merchant license, or a grain dealer license cannot
14 demonstrate a net worth of at least one hundred thousand dollars, or is incompetent
15 to conduct such warehouse, cotton merchant, or grain dealer business in accordance
16 with this Chapter or the rules and regulations adopted pursuant hereto; or if there is
17 any other sufficient reason within the intent of this Chapter for not issuing such
18 warehouse, cotton merchant, or grain dealer license.

19 ~~R.S. 3:3410.1~~ §3412. Self-insurance fund

20 A. The commission may operate a program of self-insurance for warehouses,
21 grain dealers, and cotton merchants licensed under this Chapter for the sole purpose
22 of ensuring the availability of funds necessary to meet a licensee's obligations with
23 respect to the reimbursement of any person who stored agricultural commodities in
24 the warehouse or reimbursement of a producer who sold agricultural commodities
25 to a licensee, and who was not fully compensated.

26 B. ~~The insurance shall be limited to the amount of the bonds required by R.S.~~
27 ~~3:3410, 3411, and 3411.1, and shall be accepted in lieu of those bonds. The~~
28 insurance coverage claims against a licensee related to insolvency shall be limited
29 to the amount of security required of the licensee by R.S. 3:3409.

1 C. The commission shall adopt rules and regulations, in accordance with the
2 Administrative Procedure Act, necessary for the efficient administration of the self-
3 insurance program. Such rules shall include:

4 (1) Procedures for claims on the self-insurance program.

5 (2) Reimbursement limitations.

6 (3) Administration of the self- insurance program.

7 (4) The establishment of civil penalties for violations of the provisions of the
8 self-insurance program.

9 D. A person or producer shall be eligible to receive indemnity payments
10 from the self-insurance program if the licensee becomes insolvent and, as a result of
11 the insolvency, is not fully compensated for sums owed to him by the licensee
12 pursuant to any contract between the person or producer and the licensee involving
13 agricultural commodities.

14 E. Upon a determination of the insolvency of a licensee, the commission
15 shall make the proceeds of the self-insurance program available for use in meeting
16 the licensee's obligations specified in Subsection F of this Section.

17 F. If claims for indemnity payments from the self-insurance program exceed
18 the amount of available proceeds, the commission shall prorate the claims as
19 provided for in the Administrative Procedure Act and pay the prorated amounts. As
20 future proceeds are collected, the commission shall continue to forward indemnity
21 payments to each eligible person until the person receives the maximum amount
22 payable in accordance with this Section.

23 G. Expenses incurred by the commission in administering the self-insurance
24 program shall be reimbursable from the funds collected under the program.
25 Administrative expenses shall be paid in priority to all other payments.

26 H. A licensee who knowingly or intentionally refuses or fails to pay into the
27 self-insurance program any funds due pursuant to this Chapter shall be subject to
28 civil penalties.

29 I. Money paid from the self-insurance program in satisfaction of a valid
30 claim shall constitute a debt obligation of the licensee against whom the claim was

1 made. The commission may take action on behalf of the self-insurance program
 2 against such person to recover the amount of payment made plus reasonable costs,
 3 including court costs, incurred by the commission in obtaining recovery, legal
 4 interest from the date of payment of any claim, and reasonable attorney fees. As a
 5 condition of payment of a claim from the self-insurance program, the claimant shall
 6 subrogate his interest, if any, to the commission in a cause of action against all
 7 parties, to the amount of the loss that the claimant was reimbursed by the self-
 8 insurance program.

9 ~~€~~ J. The commission may charge fees for participation in the program
 10 established in this Section. The amount of the fees shall be fixed by rule adopted in
 11 accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

12 ~~Đ~~ K. The fees charged under this Section shall be subject to the following
 13 provisions:

14 (1) All fees shall be deposited immediately upon receipt in the state treasury.

15 (2) After compliance with the requirements of Article VII, Section 9 of the
 16 Constitution of Louisiana relative to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund, and
 17 prior to monies being placed in the state general fund, an amount equal to that
 18 deposited as required by Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall be credited to a
 19 special fund hereby created in the state treasury to be known as the Agricultural
 20 Commodity Commission Self-Insurance Fund. The monies in this fund shall be used
 21 solely as provided in Paragraph (3) of this Subsection and only in the amounts
 22 appropriated by the legislature. All unexpended and unencumbered monies in this
 23 fund at the end of each fiscal year shall remain in this fund. The monies in this fund
 24 shall be invested by the state treasurer in the same manner as monies in the state
 25 general fund, and interest earned on the investment of these monies shall be credited
 26 to this fund, again, following compliance with the requirement of Article VII,
 27 Section 9 relative to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund.

28 (3) The monies in the Agricultural Commodity Commission Self-Insurance
 29 Fund shall be used solely for the administration and operation of the program of self
 30 insurance provided for in this Section.

1 ~~R.S. 3:3410.2~~ §3412.1. Grain and Cotton Indemnity Fund; creation; assessment;
 2 rules and regulations; suspension of assessment; eligibility for
 3 reimbursement; availability of money; prorated claims; reimbursement for
 4 administrative expenses; failure to pay; subrogation

5 A. The commission may operate a Grain and Cotton Indemnity Fund for
 6 grain dealers and cotton merchants licensed under this Chapter for the sole purpose
 7 of having funds available for use in meeting the licensee's obligations with respect
 8 to the reimbursement of any producer who sold agricultural commodities to the
 9 licensee and who was not fully compensated.

10 B. The commission shall charge an assessment at the rate of one twenty-fifth
 11 of one percent on the value of all agricultural commodities regulated under this
 12 Chapter which are sold to grain dealers and cotton merchants. The assessments shall
 13 be due and payable to the commission by the licensee at the first point of sale.

14 C. The assessments charged under this Section shall be subject to the
 15 following provisions:

16 (1) All assessments collected pursuant to this Section shall be deposited
 17 immediately upon receipt in the state treasury.

18 (2) After compliance with the requirements of Article VII, Section 9 of the
 19 Constitution of Louisiana relative to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund, and
 20 prior to monies being placed in the state general fund, an amount equal to that
 21 deposited as required by Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall be credited to a
 22 special fund hereby created in the state treasury to be known as the Grain and Cotton
 23 Indemnity Fund. The monies in this fund shall be used solely as provided in
 24 Paragraph (3) of this Subsection and only in the amounts appropriated by the
 25 legislature. All unexpended and unencumbered monies in this fund at the end of
 26 each fiscal year shall remain in this fund. The monies in this fund shall be invested
 27 by the state treasurer in the same manner as monies in the state general fund, and
 28 interest earned on the investment of these monies shall be credited to this fund,
 29 again, following compliance with the requirement of Article VII, Section 9 of the
 30 Constitution of Louisiana relative to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund.

1 (3) The monies in the Grain and Cotton Indemnity Fund shall be used solely
 2 for the administration and operation of the Grain and Cotton Indemnity Fund
 3 provided for in this Section.

4 (4) The assessment shall not apply to grain or cotton purchased or contracted
 5 prior to August 15, 2008.

6 D. The commission shall adopt rules and regulations, in accordance with the
 7 Administrative Procedure Act, necessary for the efficient administration of the Grain
 8 and Cotton Indemnity Fund. Such rules shall include:

9 (1) Procedures for claims on the Grain and Cotton Indemnity Fund.

10 (2) Reimbursement limitations ~~for each producer.~~

11 (3) Any rules and regulations necessary for the administration of the Grain
 12 and Cotton Indemnity Fund.

13 (4) The establishment of civil penalties for violations of this Section.

14 E. At the end of the calendar quarter in which the Grain and Cotton
 15 Indemnity Fund reaches a level of six million dollars, the commission shall suspend
 16 collection of the assessment required by this Section. If after suspension of
 17 collection the balance in the fund is less than three million dollars, the commission
 18 shall require collection of the assessment.

19 F. A producer shall be eligible to receive indemnity payments from the Grain
 20 and Cotton Indemnity Fund if:

21 (1) The licensed grain dealer becomes insolvent after January 1, 2008.

22 (2) The licensed cotton merchant becomes insolvent.

23 (3) The licensed grain dealer or cotton merchant, as a result of the
 24 insolvency, does not fully compensate the producer in accordance with a sale of
 25 agricultural commodities.

26 G. Upon the insolvency of a licensed grain dealer or cotton merchant, the
 27 commission shall make the proceeds of the Grain and Cotton Indemnity Fund
 28 available for use in meeting the licensee's obligations with respect to the
 29 reimbursement of any producer who sold grain or cotton to the licensee and who was
 30 not fully compensated.

1 B. Any producer from whom cotton was purchased or contracted to be
2 purchased and to whom money is due for cotton sold for future delivery as a result
3 of the nonperformance of the cotton merchant or cotton agent shall ~~have recourse on~~
4 ~~the bond or alternate security required to be furnished by this Chapter to the extent~~
5 ~~of the loss suffered by the producer, but such recovery against the bonding company~~
6 ~~or alternate security shall not exceed the amount of the bond or the alternate security~~
7 be entitled to submit a claim on the security to the commission pursuant to its
8 administrative procedures. Limitation of liability as to the ~~bonding company or~~
9 ~~alternate~~ security shall not restrict suits against the cotton merchant or cotton agent
10 for losses incurred in excess of the amount of the ~~bond or alternate~~ security. Suit
11 may be brought in any parish where the crop or any part thereof was grown or any
12 other venue authorized by law. ~~One or more recoveries upon such bond or alternate~~
13 ~~security shall not vitiate same, but no recovery nor the aggregate of multiple~~
14 ~~recoveries upon such bond or alternate security shall ever exceed the full amount~~
15 ~~thereof.~~ Upon suits being filed in excess of the amount of the bond or alternate
16 security, the commission may require a new ~~bond or other~~ security in an amount
17 sufficient to secure the aggregate amount of such suits, and if such additional
18 security is not given within thirty days of demand therefor, the commission may
19 cancel the license of the cotton merchant. In the case of the insolvency of a cotton
20 merchant, any cotton producer or cotton landowner having contracts for future
21 delivery shall be entitled to submit a claim on the security to the commission
22 pursuant to its administrative procedures and participate in the recovery on the ~~bond~~
23 ~~or alternate~~ security ~~funds~~ to the extent of his pro rata losses under his contract.

24 C. Should the ~~bond or alternate~~ security proceeds recovered be insufficient
25 to satisfy all claims in full, any producer who has received only partial satisfaction
26 shall retain all other rights possessed under the law without prejudice.

27 D. The commission may bring an action on the ~~bond~~ security ~~on behalf of~~
28 ~~the cotton producers or cotton landowners~~ in any court of competent jurisdiction.

1 Section 2. R.S. 3:3411.1 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____