

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE BILL NO. 153

BY REPRESENTATIVE ANDERS

AGRICULTURE: Provides for an organic certification cost-share rebate program

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 3:19, relative to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry; to provide for an
3 organic certification cost-share rebate program; to provide for the duties of the
4 commissioner of agriculture; to provide for cooperative agreements; and to provide
5 for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 3:19 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §19. Louisiana Organic Certification Cost-Share Rebate Program; legislative
9 findings; authority

10 A. The commissioner has the duty and authority to promote, protect, and
11 advance Louisiana agriculture. The legislature finds that there is potential for growth
12 of organic agricultural production in Louisiana. The legislature further finds that
13 there exists a need to support and encourage organic production in the state.

14 B. The commissioner is authorized to establish a state cost-share rebate
15 program within the department. The purpose of the program is to provide for the
16 reimbursement of a portion of organic certification costs incurred by organic
17 producers and handlers who are certified by private organic certifiers which are
18 accredited by the USDA National Organic Program. Such program shall be in
19 addition to the National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program administered by
20 the United States Department of Agriculture.

1 C. The commissioner may enter into cooperative agreements with organic
2 producers and handlers and promulgate rules and regulations, in accordance with the
3 Administrative Procedure Act, to carry out the provisions of this Section.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Anders

HB No. 153

Abstract: Provides for an organic certification cost-share certification program.

Proposed law establishes the La. Organic Certification Cost-Share Rebate Program to support and encourage organic production in the state.

Proposed law authorizes the commissioner to establish a cost-share rebate program within the department to reimburse a portion of organic certification costs incurred by producers, in addition to the national program administered by USDA.

Proposed law allows cooperative agreements between the commissioner and organic producers. Provides for the commissioner to promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of proposed law.

(Adds R.S. 3:19)