

Regular Session, 2012  
HOUSE BILL NO. 153  
BY REPRESENTATIVE ANDERS

# ACT No. 14

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 3:19 and 20, relative to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry; to provide  
3 for an organic certification cost-share rebate program; to provide for the duties of the  
4 commissioner of agriculture; to provide for cooperative agreements; to provide for  
5 organic labeling standards; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 3:19 and 20 are 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.

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

1           §20. Labeling of organic food

2                   No person shall use the term "organic food" or any derivative of the term

3           "organic" in the labeling or advertising of a food, unless the growth and composition

4           of such food product meets the requirements contained in the Code of Federal

5           Regulations, 7 CFR Part 205, the National Organic Program Standards.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_