
DIGEST

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LeBas

HB No. 878

Abstract: Changes the appointing authority and membership terms for the La. Soybean and Grain Research and Promotion Board, provides for the powers and duties of the board, removes referenda for the imposition and extension of assessments, and clarifies the use of funds.

Present law creates the La. Soybean and Grain Research and Promotion Board to be composed of 12 producer members subject to Senate confirmation as nominated by certain entities and appointed by the governor to serve concurrent terms. Provides for the commissioner of agriculture to serve as an ex officio member. Allows the board to elect officers and employ certain staff members.

Proposed law retains present law but changes the appointing authority from the governor to the commissioner and removes the term of office.

Present law provides for powers and duties of the board to include: (1) establishment of rules and regulations, and (2) ability to disqualify any member for cause or excessive absences.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides for an assessment of 1¢ per bushel on soybeans to be levied and imposed. Further provides that the imposition of such assessment shall be determined by a referendum vote of soybean producers and remain in effect for a 5-crop year period. Allows for the extension of such assessment in 5-year increments upon approval by referendum vote of the producers. Provides for certain producer voting criteria in the parish of residence.

Proposed law retains present law but removes the voting criteria and the referendum vote for imposition and extension of such assessment.

Present law provides for an assessment of ½¢ per bushel on wheat, corn, and grain sorghum to be levied and imposed. Further provides that the imposition of such assessment shall be determined by a referendum vote of wheat, corn, and grain sorghum producers and remain in effect for a 5-crop year period. Allows for the extension of such assessment in 5-year increments upon approval by a referendum vote of the producers. Provides for certain producer voting criteria in the parish of residence.

Proposed law retains present law but removes the voting criteria and the referendum vote for

imposition and extension of such assessment.

Present law provides for the board to use collected assessments to conduct a program of research and advertising for the promotion of the soybean, wheat, corn, and grain sorghum industries within and outside of La. Further allows use of such funds to defray referenda costs.

Proposed law retains present law but removes the use for such funds to defray referenda costs.

(Amends R.S. 3:3552, 3553(A) and (B)(1), and 3556(A); Adds R.S. 3:3552.1)