

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 878

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEBAS

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 3:3553(A) and (B)(1) and 3556(A), relative to the Louisiana  
3 Soybean and Grain Research and Promotion Board; to provide relative to the use of  
4 funds; to repeal authority for referenda for the imposition and extension of  
5 assessments; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 3:3553(A) and (B)(1) and 3556(A) are hereby amended and  
8 reenacted to read as follows:

9 §3553. Levy of assessment; ~~referendum~~; collection; enforcement; refund

10 A. There is imposed and levied an assessment at the rate of one cent per  
11 bushel on all soybeans grown within the state, this assessment to be deducted from  
12 the amount paid the producer at the first point of sale, whether within or without the  
13 state. ~~However, the assessment shall not be imposed unless and until the question~~  
14 ~~of its imposition has been submitted to and has been approved by at least a majority~~  
15 ~~of the soybean producers who vote in referendum to be called and held by the board.~~  
16 ~~The soybean producers of the state shall be notified by the board of the results of the~~  
17 ~~referendum. The assessment imposed by this Subsection shall be effective for a~~  
18 ~~period of five crop years. This assessment may be extended for an indefinite period~~  
19 ~~of time, in increments of five years, by ratification and approval of a majority of the~~  
20 ~~Louisiana soybean producers who vote in referenda to be called and held by the~~  
21 ~~board in the manner set forth in this Chapter. In order to be eligible to vote in the~~  
22 ~~referenda, the prospective voter must have produced soybeans in the crop year~~  
23 ~~immediately preceding the referendum. Producers voting in referenda shall vote~~  
24 ~~only in the parish in which the voter resides.~~

25 B.(1) There is imposed and levied an assessment at the rate of one-half cent  
26 per bushel on all wheat, corn, and grain sorghum grown within the state. ~~However,~~  
27 ~~the assessment shall not be imposed unless and until the question of its imposition~~

1           ~~has been submitted to and has been approved by at least a majority of the wheat,~~  
2           ~~corn, and grain sorghum producers who vote in a referendum to be called and held~~  
3           ~~by the board. The wheat, corn, and grain sorghum producers of the state shall be~~  
4           ~~notified of the results of the referendum. The assessment imposed by this Subsection~~  
5           ~~shall be effective for a period of five crop years. This assessment may be extended~~  
6           ~~for an indefinite period of time, in increments of five years, by ratification and~~  
7           ~~approval of a majority of the producers of the commodities subject to the assessment~~  
8           ~~who vote in referenda to be called and held by the board in the manner set forth in~~  
9           ~~this Chapter. In order to be able to vote in the referenda, the prospective voter must~~  
10          ~~have produced at least one of the commodities subject to the assessment in the year~~  
11          ~~preceding the year in which the referendum is held or in the year in which the~~  
12          ~~referendum is held. Producers voting in referenda shall vote only in the parish in~~  
13          ~~which the voter resides.~~

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§3556. Use of funds

16           A. The Louisiana Soybean and Grain Research and Promotion Board shall  
17           plan and conduct a program of research and advertising designed to promote the  
18           soybean, wheat, corn, and grain sorghum industries in Louisiana. The board is  
19           authorized to use the funds derived from any assessment imposed by this Chapter for  
20           these purposes, including basic administration expenses of the plan. Use of these  
21           funds may be applied, as prescribed in this Section, within or without the state of  
22           Louisiana, including regional, national, and international applications. ~~The funds~~  
23           ~~may also be used to defray costs of referenda.~~

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

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