
SENATE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

2025 Regular Session

Amendments proposed by Senate Committee on Natural Resources to Reengrossed House
Bill No. 459 by Representative Coates

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, line 3, after "1141" and before the comma "," insert "through 1145"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, line 6, after the semicolon ";" and before "and" insert:

"to provide for solar power generation facilities; to provide for jurisdiction and authority; to provide for permitting; to provide for facility siting; to provide for prohibitions;"

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 1, line 9, after "1141" and before "hereby" delete ", is" and insert "through 1145, are"

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 1, at the end of line 10, delete "STORAGE"

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 2, after line 12, insert:

"PART III. SOLAR POWER GENERATION FACILITIES

§1142. Jurisdiction; authority of the department, local governing authorities

A. The secretary of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources shall have jurisdiction over all persons and property, and shall have the authority to perform all acts necessary to enforce the provisions of this Part and any rules adopted pursuant to this Part.

B. Any parish that has adopted solar ordinances may by resolution opt out of the siting requirements of this Part. Upon submission of such resolution so passed to the department, the siting standards of this Part shall not apply to that parish.

§1143. Permitting

A. No person shall construct, install, or operate a solar power generation facility with a footprint of seventy-five or more acres without holding a permit issued by the department pursuant to this Part.

B. The Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries may submit comments regarding construction, installation, and operation of any power generation facility to the department.

§1144. Facility siting

A. Any solar power generation facility with a footprint of seventy-five acres or more which is not located wholly within an industrial-zoned area or a Louisiana Economic Development certified site shall comply with the standards set forth in this Section.

B. There shall be a buffer around the perimeter of each solar power generation facility that includes setbacks and a vegetative barrier to screen the facility from view. The vegetative barrier shall be comprised of native vegetation, shall ensure an opaque visual barrier year round, and shall be designed to conceal the development from view from adjoining properties. Stamped landscape plans by a licensed landscape architect or landscape horticulturalist shall be required for permitting. Existing vegetation on-site may be retained undisturbed in satisfaction of the vegetative barrier requirement if it otherwise meets the requirements of this Section.

1 (1) For residential property, unless provided otherwise by written agreement
2 between the property owner and the facility operator, there shall be a three hundred foot
3 setback from the residential property line to the nearest solar device, with one of the
4 following:

5 (a) A thirty-five foot deep vegetative barrier composed of new plant material.

6 (b) A fifty foot deep vegetative barrier composed of natural plant material.

7 (2) For natural and navigable water bodies, there shall be a one hundred foot setback
8 from the ordinary low water mark to the nearest solar device.

9 (3) For public roads, there shall be a fifty foot setback from the edge of the paved
10 road surface to the nearest solar device, with a thirty-five vegetative barrier.

11 C. Noise levels at the property line of the facility shall not exceed ten A-weighted
12 decibels (dbA) above the ambient noise level present at the property line prior to operation
13 of the facility.

14 D. The provisions of this Section shall apply to any solar power generation facility
15 for which construction begins after January 1, 2026.

16 §1145. Prohibitions

17 Any chemical that is not approved for agricultural application shall not be sprayed
18 for maintenance of a solar power generation facility site."