

ACT No. 484

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 98

BY REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG

AN ACT

To amend and reenact the heading of Part III-F of Title 19 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 and R.S. 19:135(2), 135.1(A), 135.2(1) and (3), 135.4, and 135.7(1), relative to expropriation by Lincoln Parish; to authorize Lincoln Parish to expropriate by a declaration of taking; to define terms; to provide for purposes of the expropriation; and to provide for related matters.

Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of Louisiana.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. The heading of Part III-F of Title 19 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 and R.S. 19:135(2), 135.1(A), 135.2(1) and (3), 135.4, and 135.7(1) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

PART III-F. EXPROPRIATION OF PROPERTY BY A DECLARATION
OF TAKING BY LINCOLN PARISH AND THE CITY OF RUSTON

§135. Property, governing authority defined

As used in this Part, the term:

* * *

(2) "Governing authority" means the governing authority of the parish of Lincoln or the city of Ruston.

§135.1. Authority to expropriate; acquisition of property for certain purposes

A. When the parish of Lincoln or the city of Ruston cannot amicably acquire property needed by the parish or city for a street, road, drainage, water, utility, sewerage, electric, or other capital project, it may acquire the same by expropriation and may acquire the property prior to judgment in the trial court fixing the amount of compensation due to the owner of the property.

* * *

§135.2. Contents of petition for expropriation; place of filing

The right of expropriation granted by this Part shall be exercised in the following manner:

(1) A petition shall be filed by the ~~plaintiff~~ parish of Lincoln or city of Ruston in the ~~district court~~ Third Judicial District Court ~~of the parish in which the property to be expropriated is situated.~~

* * *

(3) The petition shall have annexed to it the following:

(a) A certified copy of a resolution adopted by the governing authority of the parish of Lincoln or the city of Ruston authorizing the taking and declaring that it is necessary or useful for the purposes of this Part.

(b) If the taking includes a right-of-way, a certificate signed by the parish or city engineer or consulting engineer declaring that he has fixed the right-of-way in a manner sufficient in his judgment to provide for the public interest, safety, and convenience.

(c) A certificate signed by the director of public works and the parish or city engineer or consulting engineer declaring that the location and design of the proposed improvements are in accordance with the best modern practices adopted in the interest of the safety and convenience of the public.

* * *

1 §135.4. Vesting of title

2 Title to the property and the property rights specified in the petition shall vest
 3 in the parish of Lincoln or the city of Ruston upon final court order declaring that the
 4 property described in the petition has been taken for the project, and the right to just
 5 and adequate compensation therefor shall vest in the persons entitled thereto. Upon
 6 vesting of title, the parish of Lincoln or the city of Ruston may enter upon and take
 7 possession of the property.

8 * * *

9 §135.7. Defendant's answer; requirements; delay for filing

10 When property is expropriated pursuant to this Part, any defendant may apply
 11 for a trial to determine the measure of compensation to which he is entitled, if:

12 (1) He files an answer within one year from the date he is notified in writing
 13 by the parish of Lincoln or the city of Ruston that it has finally accepted the
 14 construction project for which the property was expropriated. However, he may file
 15 his answer prior to the date he is notified by the governing authority.

16 * * *

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____