

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 279 (HB 459)

2025 Regular Session

Coates

New law requires operators of renewable energy storage facilities to obtain a permit for installation and decommissioning from the Dept. of Energy and Natural Resources (DENR) prior to installing a battery.

New law requires a permit to construct or complete an onshore wind project from the DENR.

New law prohibits the issuance of a permit for renewable energy projects without proof of financial security and a decommissioning plan.

New law requires the secretary of the dept. to promulgate and adopt regulations necessary for the enforcement of new law by Aug. 31, 2026.

New law excludes residential properties from the applicability of new law.

New law defines "onshore".

New law provides DENR permitting authority for solar power generation facilities of 75 acres or more.

New law requires that any solar facility of 75 acres or more and not wholly within a industrial-zoned area or La. Economic Development certified site adhere to siting requirements, including setbacks, opaque vegetative barriers, and plans stamped by a landscape architect or horticulturalist.

New law allows a parish government to create its own siting requirements and opt out of state requirements by resolution.

New law requires for residential properties a 300 foot setback from the property line to the nearest solar equipment, with a 35 foot barrier of new landscaping or a 50 foot barrier of natural plants. Prohibits noise more than 10 decibels above the pre-construction ambient noise level at the property line. Further allows landowners to opt out of siting requirements through written agreement with the facility operator.

New law requires for natural and navigable waterways a 100 foot setback from the low water mark to the nearest solar equipment.

New law requires for public roads a 50 foot setback from the pavement edge to the nearest solar equipment, with a 35 foot vegetative barrier.

New law requires any solar facility constructed after Jan. 1, 2026 to comply with state siting requirements.

New law prohibits spraying of any chemical for maintenance of a solar facility if the chemical is not approved for agricultural use.

New law exempts from the provisions of proposed law one wind turbine on property leased on or before June 30, 2024 for the purpose of installation and operation of a single wind turbine and the corresponding instrumentation system required to monitor energy operations and maintenance.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Adds R.S. 30:1131 and 1141-1145)