

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 497

BY REPRESENTATIVES SCHAMERHORN AND OWEN

ENERGY: Authorizes the governing authority of Vernon Parish to determine whether carbon dioxide sequestration and pipelines transporting carbon dioxide may be permitted within the parish

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 30:4(C)(17)(c), 1104(F), and 1104.3, relative to carbon dioxide transport and

3 sequestration in Vernon Parish; to authorize the governing authority of Vernon

4 Parish to determine whether Class VI injection wells, carbon dioxide sequestration,

5 and pipelines transporting carbon dioxide may be permitted within the parish; to

6 provide for the authority of the secretary of the Department of Conservation and

7 Energy; to provide for notice to the department; to provide for legislative intent; to

8 provide for severability; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related

9 matters.

10 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published

11 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of

12 Louisiana.

13 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

14 Section 1. It is the intent of this legislature to allow the Vernon Parish Police Jury

15 to prohibit the permitting of carbon dioxide injection wells, the geologic sequestration of

16 carbon dioxide, and the transportation of carbon dioxide by pipeline within Vernon Parish.

17 The Vernon Parish Police Jury adopted a resolution on November 17, 2025, opposing the

18 siting, permitting, construction, or operation of carbon dioxide sequestration projects and

19 associated pipeline infrastructure within Vernon Parish until such activity is independently

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

1 verified by credible, peer-reviewed scientific evidence to be safe and effective and fully  
2 supported by the informed consent of the residents of Vernon Parish.

3 Section 2. R.S. 30:4(C)(17)(c), 1104(F), and 1104.3 are hereby enacted to read as  
4 follows:

5 §4. Jurisdiction, duties, and powers of the secretary; rules and regulations

6 \* \* \*

7 C. The secretary has authority to make, after notice and hearings as provided  
8 in this Chapter, any reasonable rules, regulations, and orders that are necessary from  
9 time to time in the proper administration and enforcement of this Chapter, including  
10 rules, regulations, or orders for the following purposes:

11 \* \* \*

12 (17)

13 \* \* \*

14 (c) The secretary's authority pursuant to this Paragraph shall be subject to the  
15 local option procedures set forth in Chapter 11 of this Subtitle.

16 \* \* \*

17 §1104. Duties and powers of the secretary; rules and regulations; permits

18 \* \* \*

19 F.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the secretary  
20 shall not issue any order, permit, or certificate authorizing Class VI injection wells,  
21 carbon dioxide sequestration, or the transportation of carbon dioxide through  
22 pipelines in any parish where prohibited pursuant to the local option procedure set  
23 forth in this Chapter.

24 (2) The prohibition in this Subsection shall prevent the final issuance of any  
25 order, permit, or certificate, regardless of whether an application for the same was  
26 previously submitted to the department.

27 \* \* \*

1           §1104.3. Local option; Vernon Parish

2                   A. In the exercise of the parish's police power to protect public health, safety,  
3                   and welfare and authority to regulate land use within its borders, the governing  
4                   authority of Vernon Parish may, by resolution or ordinance, determine whether Class  
5                   VI injection wells, carbon dioxide sequestration, and pipelines transporting carbon  
6                   dioxide may be located within the parish.

7                   B. A copy of any resolution or ordinance passed for this purpose shall be  
8                   provided to the department by the governing authority of Vernon Parish.

9                   C. Any prohibition adopted pursuant to this Section shall become effective  
10                  upon adoption of the resolution or ordinance by the governing authority of Vernon  
11                  Parish.

12                  D. Any local determination made pursuant to this Section shall supersede  
13                  and preempt any conflicting state or local law, regulation, order, permit, or  
14                  certificate. No application, option agreement, site control agreement, or preliminary  
15                  or draft approval shall confer vested rights or grandfathered authority inconsistent  
16                  with a parish prohibition adopted pursuant to this Section.

17           Section 3. If any provision of this Act or the application thereof is held invalid, such  
18           invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Act which can be given  
19           effect without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this end the provisions of this  
20           Act are hereby declared severable.

21           Section 4. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
22           signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
23           by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
24           vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
25           effective on the day following such approval.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 497 Original

2026 Regular Session

Schamerhorn

**Abstract:** Authorizes the Vernon Parish governing authority to determine whether Class VI carbon dioxide injection wells, the geologic storage of carbon dioxide, and pipelines used to transport carbon dioxide may be located within the parish.

Present law authorizes the Dept. of Conservation and Energy to permit and regulate Class VI carbon dioxide injection wells, pipelines for the transportation of carbon dioxide for geologic storage, and pipelines for the transportation of carbon dioxide for enhanced oil recovery within the state.

Proposed law creates an exception to the dept.'s authority where Class VI wells, the geologic storage of carbon dioxide, or carbon dioxide pipelines have been prohibited by the local option procedure provided in proposed law.

Proposed law authorizes the Vernon Parish governing authority to determine whether Class VI wells, geologic storage of carbon dioxide, and carbon dioxide pipelines may be located within the parish by passing an ordinance or resolution.

Proposed law requires the parish governing authority to notify the dept. of any resolution or ordinance passed for the purpose of prohibiting or allowing Class VI injection wells, the geologic storage of carbon dioxide, or carbon dioxide pipelines within the parish.

Proposed law provides that any prohibition by the Vernon Parish governing authority is effective upon its adoption.

Proposed law provides that any determination made by the governing authority of Vernon Parish will supersede any conflicting laws, regulations, and dept. actions.

Provides for severability that allows the remaining provisions to continue to be effective even if other provisions are determined to be invalid.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 30:4(C)(17)(c), 1104(F), and 1104.3)