

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 670

BY REPRESENTATIVES OWEN AND SCHAMERHORN

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Provides relative to wood pellet manufacturing

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part IV of Chapter 3 of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be
3 comprised of R.S. 51:955.1 through 955.2, relative to wood pellet manufacturing; to
4 provide for legislative findings and purpose; to provide for definitions; to provide for
5 the responsibilities of Louisiana Economic Development; to provide incentives for
6 wood pellet manufacturing; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Part IV of Chapter 3 of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
9 comprised of R.S. 51:955.1 through 955.2, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 PART IV: LOUISIANA WOOD PELLET MANUFACTURING STRENGTHENING

11 ACT

12 §955.1. Findings; purpose

13 A. The legislature hereby finds and declares that the wood pellet
14 manufacturing industry represents a significant economic opportunity for the state,
15 leveraging the state's abundant forest resources, world-class deepwater port facilities,
16 and extensive rail network to serve growing international demand for renewable
17 biomass fuel. Wood pellet manufacturing creates high-quality jobs in rural
18 communities, supports the forestry sector, and diversifies the state's economy. The
19 legislature further finds that the current regulatory framework, while serving
20 important environmental and public safety purposes, was not designed with the

1 specific characteristics of wood pellet manufacturing in mind and may impose
2 unnecessary burdens on this emerging industry at a time when international demand,
3 particularly from European power generators seeking alternative sources of fuel, is
4 growing.

5 B. It is the purpose of this Act to establish this state as a premier location for
6 wood pellet manufacturing by streamlining permitting processes while maintaining
7 appropriate environmental safeguards, developing a skilled workforce to meet the
8 industry's employment needs, and facilitating the efficient transportation and export
9 of wood pellets through this state's port facilities, thereby enabling the state to
10 capture a significant share of the growing international market, create jobs, support
11 rural communities, and strengthen this state's economy.

12 §955.2. Wood pellet manufacturing; definitions; priority industry; port access

13 A. As used in this Part, "wood pellet manufacturing" means the production
14 of compressed biomass pellets from forestry residues for export or domestic use,
15 including those supplying fuel markets driven by new and transformative sources of
16 power generation.

17 B. Louisiana Economic Development, in accordance with the Administrative
18 Procedure Act, shall establish wood pellet manufacturing as a priority industry in this
19 state, and shall promulgate rules and regulations including but not be limited to the
20 following:

21 (1) Prioritizing and enhancing job creation incentives for wood pellet
22 manufacturing facilities.

23 (2) Establishing workforce development and training initiatives for wood
24 pellet manufacturing facilities.

25 (3) Prioritizing wood pellet cargo for loading, docking, and processing at
26 state ports.

27 (4) Establishing site readiness criteria for wood pellet manufacturing.

28 (5) Providing clear regulatory pathways for the development of wood pellet
29 manufacturing facilities throughout this state.

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)]

HB 670 Original

2026 Regular Session

Owen

Abstract: Directs Louisiana Economic Development to designate wood pellet manufacturing as a priority industry in this state, and to promulgate rules and regulations to spur industry development.

Proposed law provides for legislative findings and intent.

Proposed law defines "wood pellet manufacturing".

Proposed law directs Louisiana Economic Development to establish wood pellet manufacturing as a priority industry in this state, and to promulgate rules and regulations including but not limited to the following:

- (1) Prioritizing and enhancing job creation incentives for wood pellet manufacturing facilities.
- (2) Establishing workforce development and training initiatives for wood pellet manufacturing facilities.
- (3) Prioritizing wood pellet cargo for loading, docking, and processing at state ports.
- (4) Establishing site readiness criteria for wood pellet manufacturing.
- (5) Providing clear regulatory pathways for the development of wood pellet manufacturing facilities throughout this state.

(Adds R.S. 51:955.1-955.2)