
DIGEST

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HB 783 Original

2026 Regular Session

Coates

Abstract: Provides for the definitions "milk" and "non-lactational dairy protein products". Prohibits certain entities from manufacturing, processing, packaging, storing, or distributing, purchasing, or serving non-lactational dairy protein products. Provides for the labeling requirement of non-lactational dairy protein products.

Present law (R.S. 3:4102(1)) defines "milk" as the lacteal secretion from one or more cows, including milk that is raw, cooled, pasteurized, standardized, homogenized, recombined, or concentrated, and that meets the requirements of the state health officer.

Proposed law modifies present law by clarifying that "milk" is the lacteal secretion that is practically free from colostrum and is obtained by the complete milking of one or more healthy cows. Further requires that "milk" be interpreted to include the milk of goats, sheep, water buffalo, camels, and other hooved animals.

Present law (R.S. 3:4102(10)(b)) defines "dairy product" to include any product that contains milk solids not fat, butterfat, or a milk derivative, and that is manufactured to resemble a dairy product listed in the preceding subparagraph. Clarifies that the term "dairy product" does not include butter; cheese (except cottage cheese or Creole cream cheese); nonfat dry milk; skim condensed milk; whole condensed milk; or sweetened condensed milk.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that non-lactational dairy protein products are not considered "milk".

Present law (R.S. 3:4102) provides for definitions under the Dairy Stabilization Law.

Proposed law retains present law and adds a definition of "non-lactational dairy protein product" to mean a food product not containing dairy-identical or dairy-derived proteins produced through microbial fermentation or other manufacturing processes and not derived from the natural lactation of a mammal.

Present law (R.S. 3:4109) provides licensing requirements for processors.

Proposed law retains present law but adds a prohibition for any licensed processor, distributor, supplier, or retailer to manufacture, process, package, store, or distribute a non-lactational dairy protein product.

Present law (R.S. 38:2251.1) provides for the preference of milk and dairy products produced or processed in the state over out-of-state products for state and local government purchases, provided that the in-state products are of equal quality and reasonably priced.

Proposed law retains present law but prohibits a state agency, including a public school, university, correctional facility, or other publicly funded institution, from purchasing or serving any non-lactational dairy protein product, as defined in present law (R.S. 3:4102).

Present law (R.S. 40:881(A)) requires the La. Dept. of Health to enforce the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's standard of identity for milk (21 CFR 131.110), the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance, and the provisions of present law to prohibit the sale of plant-based products that are mislabeled as milk.

Proposed law modifies present law by also prohibiting the sale of non-lactational dairy protein products that are mislabeled as milk. Further requires that any non-lactational dairy protein product offered for sale bear a clear and conspicuous disclosure statement that complies with the required formatting of proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 3:4102(1) and (10)(b), R.S. 38:2251.1, and R.S. 40:881(A); Adds R.S. 3:4102(19) and 4109(H))