

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 and 955.2, relative to wood pellet manufacturing; to
4 provide for legislative findings and purpose; to provide for definitions; to provide for
5 permissions of Louisiana Economic Development; to provide incentives for wood
6 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 and 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 this state,
15 leveraging this state's abundant forest resources, world-class deepwater port
16 facilities, and extensive rail network to serve growing international demand for
17 renewable biomass fuel. Wood pellet manufacturing creates high-quality jobs in
18 rural communities, supports the forestry sector, and diversifies this state's economy.
19 The 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 this 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, biomass, including but not limited to
15 forest and agriculture residues, thinnings, and storm damaged residues for export or
16 domestic use, including those supplying fuel markets driven by new and
17 transformative sources of power generation.

18 B. Louisiana Economic Development may support the recruitment, retention,
19 and expansion of wood pellet manufacturing facilities in this state within existing
20 statutory authority and subject to the availability of funds, and in accordance with
21 the Administrative Procedure Act, may develop policies, guidance, or program
22 criteria consistent with existing economic development programs, when appropriate
23 and within existing authority, including but not limited to the following:

24 (1) Prioritizing and enhancing job creation incentives for wood pellet
25 manufacturing facilities.

26 (2) Establishing workforce development and training initiatives for wood
27 pellet manufacturing facilities.

28 (3) Coordinating with ports regarding infrastructure needs associated with
29 wood pellet manufacturing cargo.

- 1 (4) Establishing site readiness criteria for wood pellet manufacturing.
- 2 (5) Providing clear regulatory pathways for the development of wood pellet
- 3 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 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Owen

Abstract: Permits Louisiana Economic Development to support the recruitment, retention, and expansion of wood pellet manufacturing facilities in this state within existing statutory authority and subject to the availability of funds.

Proposed law provides for legislative findings and intent.

Proposed law defines "wood pellet manufacturing".

Proposed law directs Louisiana Economic Development to support the recruitment, retention, and expansion of wood pellet manufacturing facilities in this state within existing statutory authority and subject to the availability of funds, and to develop policies, guidance, or program criteria consistent with existing economic development programs, when appropriate and within existing authority 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) Coordinating with ports regarding infrastructure needs associated with wood pellet manufacturing cargo.
- (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 and 955.2)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Commerce to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Amend proposed law mandating that La. Economic Development (LED) prioritize wood pellet manufacturing to permitting LED to support recruitment, retention, and expansion of wood pellet manufacturing facilities in this state within existing authority and subject to the availability of funds, and to develop policies consistent with existing economic development programs, when appropriate and within existing authority.

3. Amend proposed law directing LED to promulgate related rules and regulations, including prioritizing wood pellet cargo for loading and processing at ports to permitting LED to develop policies, guidance, or program criteria, including coordinating with ports regarding wood pellet cargo.

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the engrossed bill:

1. Amend the definition of "wood pellet manufacturing" from only forestry residues to also include the production of compressed biomass pellets from biomass including but not limited to forest and agriculture residues, thinnings, and storm damaged residues.