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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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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DIGEST

SB 496 Engrossed 2026 Regular Session Connick

Present law provides for the licensure and regulation of scrap metal recyclers.

Present law provides for definitions.

Proposed law retains present law definitions and defines additional terms, including "cable service provider", "carrier", "common carrier", "copper or brass material", "operator", "pipeline", "public utility", "telecommunication service", and "video service provider".

Present law exempts from regulation certain persons and transactions, including certain dealers, nonprofit entities, permitted waste operators, pawnbrokers, and purchases of materials from commercial or industrial vendors generating such materials as a byproduct or recyclable waste in the ordinary course of business.

Proposed law retains present law exemptions and further clarifies that the exemptions includes business-to-business purchases of materials by an operator from specified licensed entities and service providers, as well as from commercial or industrial businesses, or their agents, that generate scrap metal in the ordinary course of business.

Present law requires each operator to obtain a photograph of any person selling or delivering scrap metal to the facility. In lieu of a photograph, the operator may obtain a thumbprint or a photocopy of valid identification. Further requires such records to be cross-referenced with the required ledger entry under present law, which shall be retained for at least one year, and made available to law enforcement within 24 hours upon request.

Present law requires each operator to obtain one or more photographs of all scrap metal purchased, with sufficient quality to identify the type of scrap metal, to be cross-referenced with the required ledger entry under present law and made available to law enforcement within 24 hours upon request.

Proposed law retains present law and requires that in any transaction involving copper or brass material, each operator obtain a photograph of the seller, a thumbprint sufficient to identify the person, and a photocopy of valid identification.

Present law requires each operator to produce and deliver to the appropriate law enforcement official, prior to 12:00 noon each day, a complete and legible copy of the previous day's transaction records and to submit such information to a database accessible by law enforcement. Further authorizes law enforcement to request personally identifiable information related to specific transactions and

requires the operator to provide such information within 24 hours of the request.

Present law provides that the operator is responsible for transmitting the required information regardless of whether it is used by law enforcement and provides that law enforcement is not required to take any action based on the information received.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that in transactions involving copper or brass materials, prior to 12:00 noon each day, each operator shall transmit photographs of all such materials purchased during the previous day to an electronic database accessible by law enforcement.

Present law prohibits scrap metal recyclers from entering into cash transactions for copper and requires payment to be made by check issued to the seller and mailed to the address on the sellers identification no earlier than five business days after the transaction.

Present law prohibits cash transactions in excess of \$300 for the purchase of metal property other than copper and requires such payment to be made by check, which may be tendered at the time of the transaction. Further provides that payments of \$300 or less may be made by cash or other method at the operators discretion.

Present law requires that payments made by check or loadable payment card include verification of the seller's identification and address by providing a current utility bill and requires the operator to retain a copy of the current utility bill as proof of address.

Proposed law retains present law except expands the application of present law to include brass materials and removes the requirement that an operator verify the seller's address by a current utility bill.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 37:1962, 1964(8), 1972(C), 1973(A)(1)(intro para), (A)(2), and (C); adds R.S. 37:1968(C) and 1972(D))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

##### Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs to the original bill

1. Makes technical changes.