

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 502

BY SENATOR CATHEY

FARMING. Provides relative to the storage of sugarcane bagasse biomass. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 3:3602(18) and to enact R.S. 3:3602(19) and 3607(E), relative
3 to sugarcane bagasse biomass storage; to provide for definitions; to prohibit certain
4 ordinances; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 3:3602(18) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 3:3602(19) and
7 3607(E) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §3602. Definitions

9 As used in this Part, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

10 * * *

11 (18) **"Sugarcane bagasse biomass" means the solid, heterogeneous,**
12 **fibrous material that remains after extracting the liquid from sugarcane stalks,**
13 **which may include but is not limited to the following:**

14 **(a) Biomass derived from factory bagasse which is obtained from the**
15 **industrial extraction process and contains only trace amounts of the sugarcane**
16 **liquid.**

17 **(b) Biomass derived from pressed cane stalks or farm bagasse which is**

1 **obtained from on-farm or small factory extraction and contains higher amounts**
2 **of sugarcane liquid.**

3 **(c) Dewatered pulp derived from bagasse; recognized by the United**
4 **States Environmental Protection Agency as a fuel pursuant to 40 CFR 241.4.**

5 (19) "Traditional farm practices" means those accepted and customary
6 standards established by similar agricultural operations under similar circumstances
7 using established best management practices. Best management practices for animal
8 feeding operations and confined animal feeding operations shall be determined by
9 the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry in conjunction with the LSU
10 AgCenter.

11 * * *

12 §3607. Local ordinances

13 * * *

14 **E. No parish or municipal governing authority may enact or enforce any**
15 **ordinance prohibiting the storage of sugarcane bagasse biomass when it is**
16 **stored in accordance with a best management practice plan that has been**
17 **approved by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry in writing and**
18 **provided to the Department of Environmental Quality.**

19 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
20 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
21 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
22 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
23 effective on the day following such approval.

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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Present law prohibits parish governing authorities from adopting ordinances that declares an agricultural operation operated in accordance with generally accepted agricultural practices or traditional farm practices to be a nuisance or zoning ordinance that forces

closure of the agricultural operation.

Proposed law retains present law and further prohibits a parish or municipal governing authority from enacting or enforcing any ordinance prohibiting the storage of sugarcane bagasse biomass when stored in accordance with a best management practice plan.

Proposed law defines "sugarcane bagasse biomass".

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

(Amends R.S. 3:3602(18); adds R.S. 3:3602(19) and 3607(E))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development to the original bill

1. Changes effective date from August 1, 2026, to upon signature of the governor.