

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**HB 956****2026 Regular Session****Fontenot**

FIRE PROTECT/FIRE MARSHAL: Provides relative to fireworks

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Makes technical changes.
2. Allows fireworks to be sold at retail in the days leading up to the Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday, Memorial Day, and Labor Day holidays.
3. Changes the beginning time of the day at which fireworks may be sold at retail on allowed days from noon to 7:00 a.m.
4. Amends provision requiring a valid retail permit to purchase fireworks from requiring such permit to purchase from a wholesaler to requiring such permit to purchase from a distributor.
5. Changes application of licensing fee increase to \$200 for a new license and \$100 for a renewal from applying to a pyrotechnic special effects operator license only to applying to a pyrotechnic operator license, a pyrotechnic special effects operator license, and a blaster's license.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law provides for definitions.

Proposed law amends definitions of "proximate display", "public display", "pyrotechnic operator", and "pyrotechnic special effects operator" and repeals definitions of "Class C public display" and "pyrotechnic operator".

Present law prohibits certain types of fireworks from being possessed, used, or sold in this state.

Proposed law provides that only items classified as 1.4G fireworks in compliance with APA Standard 87-1A may be sold by a properly licensed retailer to the public.

Present law authorizes permissible items of fireworks to be sold at retail only from noon on June 16th through midnight on July 5th and noon on December 15th through midnight on January 1st of each calendar year.

Proposed law retains present law but sets the beginning time for sales to commence from noon to 7:00 a.m.

Proposed law authorizes permissible items of fireworks to be sold at retail from 7:00 a.m. on the Thursday immediately prior to Ash Wednesday through midnight on Ash Wednesday of each calendar year.

Proposed law authorizes permissible items of fireworks to be sold at retail from 7:00 a.m. on the Tuesday immediately prior to Memorial Day through midnight on Memorial Day of each calendar year.

Proposed law authorizes permissible items of fireworks to be sold at retail from 7:00 a.m. on the Tuesday immediately prior to Labor Day through midnight on Labor Day of each calendar year.

Present law provides that a licensee whose license has expired for two years or more and makes application for a new license shall retake and pass the written examination to receive a renewed license.

Proposed law provides that a licensee in that circumstance shall receive a new license.

Present law provides a fee for a pyrotechnic operator license, pyrotechnic special effects operator license, or blaster's license of \$50 for a new license and \$25 for a license renewal.

Proposed law increases the fees to \$200 for a new license and \$100 for a renewal.

Present law provides for requirements to make a Class C public display and for licensing to make such a display.

Proposed law repeals the requirements for Class C public displays and licensing.

Present law provides requirements for a permit application for a Class C display, public display, or proximate display of fireworks.

Proposed law removes requirements for Class C public displays, and proposed law adds the requirement for public displays or proximate displays to have a current certificate of insurance issued to the state fire marshal showing general liability coverage in the amount of \$1,000,000.

Present law provides an application fee for a public display or proximate display permit of \$100, and a \$25 fee for a Class C public display permit.

Proposed law provides for a \$200 fee for public display or proximate display, and a \$100 fee for renewal of that permit. Proposed law removes the fee for a Class C public display.

Present law provides that the state fire marshal may promulgate rules and regulations regarding public displays, proximate displays, and Class C displays.

Proposed law removes the reference to Class C displays.

Present law provides for a retailer a \$100 fee for a permit to sell fireworks.

Proposed law increases the fee to \$250.

Proposed law makes it unlawful for any person to purchase fireworks from a distributor without first obtaining a valid retail permit issued by the state fire marshal.

(Amends R.S. 51:650(23), (24), (26), and (28), 651.1(B), 652(B), 655(C)(3) and (8), (E), (G), and (H)(1), and 656(C)(1)(f) and (E); Adds R.S. 51:656(F); Repeals R.S. 51:650(6) and (27) and 655(D))