

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 509

BY REPRESENTATIVE OWEN

ENERGY: Requires a public hearing in the parish where a Class VI well is proposed

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 30:1105(E), relative to Class VI permits; to require a hearing to be held to
3 receive public comments in every parish in which a Class VI injection well permit
4 is proposed; to require the department to provide notice of draft permits and public
5 hearings; to require a public comment period of at least thirty days after public
6 notice; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 30:1105(E) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §1105. Hearings; notice; public records

10 * * *

11 E. In every parish in which an application for a Class VI permit has been
12 filed, a public hearing to receive comments from the public shall be required prior
13 to the issuance of a permit. The department shall provide public notice of any draft
14 permit and of the hearing to be held pursuant to this Subsection. The department
15 shall also provide a public comment period of at least thirty days following such
16 notice.

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 509 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Owen

Abstract: Requires a hearing to receive public comments in every parish in which a Class VI injection well permit is proposed. Further requires public notice of draft permits and local public hearings and a public comment period on the draft permit that lasts at least 30 days following the notice.

Present law for public hearings to be conducted pursuant to the provisions of present law (R.S. 30:6) and notice to be provided to the governing authority of any affected parish in which a carbon sequestration project is proposed.

Present law further provides that the secretary hold hearings when requested in writing and to give substantial consideration to comments received from the local government when taking action in any matter requiring a public comment period or public hearing.

Proposed law retains present law and adds a requirement for a hearing to be held to receive public comments in parishes in which Class VI permit applications have been filed prior to issuance of a permit.

Proposed law further requires that the department provide public notice of the issuance of any draft permit and public notice of the hearing to receive public comments required by proposed law.

Proposed law requires the department to provide a public comment period of at least 30 days following the public notice required by proposed law.

(Adds R.S. 30:1105(E))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to the original bill:

1. Remove local public hearing requirements for Class V wells related to carbon dioxide sequestration projects.
2. Remove requirement that the public hearing required by proposed law be held during the public comment period.
3. Remove the prohibition against holding the local public hearing required by proposed law from December 20th to January 1st.
4. Add requirements that the department provide public notice of draft permits and local public hearings required by proposed law.
5. Add requirement that the department provide a public comment period of at least thirty days following the public notice required by proposed law.