SLS 21RS-430 ORIGINAL

2021 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 185

BY SENATOR ALLAIN

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

NATURAL RESOURCES DEPT. Provides for regulation of leases of land for solar farms. (8/1/21)

1 AN ACT

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To amend and reenact the introductory paragraph of R.S. 30:1154(A) and to enact R.S. 30:1154(A)(8), relative to solar energy; to provide for leases to explore, develop, and produce solar energy; to provide for the powers and duties of the secretary of the Department of Natural Resources; to provide for terms, conditions, and requirements

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. The introductory paragraph of R.S. 30:1154(A) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 30:1154(A)(8) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1154. Regulations governing solar devices; solar leases

of solar leases; and to provide for related matters.

A. The secretary shall develop and adopt, in cooperation with affected landowners, and utility, agricultural, and solar industry and consumer representatives and after one or more public hearings, regulations governing solar devices and property leases for the exploration, development, and production of solar energy. The regulations shall be designed to encourage the development and use of solar energy and to provide maximum information to the public concerning solar devices. The regulations may include the following:

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Tyler S. McCloud.

DIGEST 2021 Regular Session

SB 185 Original

Allain

<u>Present law</u> requires the secretary of the Dept. of Natural Resources to develop and adopt, in cooperation with affected industry and consumer representatives and after one or more public hearings, regulations governing solar devices.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> and also requires cooperation with landowners and utility and agricultural representatives in developing regulations. Also requires such regulations govern property leases for the exploration, development, and production of solar energy.

<u>Proposed law</u> authorizes the rules to provide for minimum requirements for property leases for the exploration, development, and production of solar energy including but not limited to acreage, access, and maintenance of the property during the lease, and decommissioning and final site closure upon termination of the lease.

<u>Present law</u> requires the regulations to encourage the development and use of solar energy and to provide maximum information to the public concerning solar devices. <u>Proposed law</u> retains present law.

Effective August 1, 2021.

(Amends R.S. 30:1154(A)(intro para); adds R.S. 30:1154(A)(8))