

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 200

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

NUISANCE/PUBLIC: Provides relative to the growth of grass, weeds, and other deleterious matter in St. Bernard Parish

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 33:1236(21)(b)(i), (iv), (v), and (vii) and to enact R.S.  
3 33:1236(21)(i), relative to St. Bernard Parish; to provide relative to the growth and  
4 accumulation of grass, weeds, and other deleterious matter; to provide relative to the  
5 powers granted to the parish governing authority with respect to the removal of such  
6 deleterious matter; to provide relative to the costs incurred by the parish governing  
7 authority relative to removal; to provide relative to liens granted in favor of the  
8 parish governing authority; and to provide for related matters.

9 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published  
10 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of  
11 Louisiana.

12 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

13 Section 1. R.S. 33:1236(21)(b)(i), (iv), (v), and (vii) are hereby amended and  
14 reenacted and R.S. 33:1236(21)(i) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

15 §1236. Powers of parish governing authorities

16 The police juries and other parish governing authorities shall have the  
17 following powers:

18 \* \* \*  
19 (21)  
20 \* \* \*

1 (b)(i) The governing authority of ~~the parishes of Jefferson and St. Bernard~~  
2 Parish may enact ordinances regulating or prohibiting the growth or accumulation  
3 of grass, obnoxious weeds, or other deleterious or unhealthful growths, trash, debris,  
4 refuse, or discarded or noxious matter.

5 \* \* \*

6 (iv) Upon failure of any such property owner to pay the charges, the  
7 governing authority may file a certified copy of the charges with the recorder of  
8 mortgages, and the same, when so filed and recorded, shall operate as a lien and  
9 privilege in favor of the parish against the property on which the matter was cut or  
10 removed. In ~~the parishes of Jefferson and St. Bernard~~ Parish, the lien and privilege  
11 granted under this Paragraph, when recorded within sixty days from the date of  
12 completion of the cutting or removal, shall have the same ranking as an ad valorem  
13 tax lien on immovable property as provided in R.S. 9:4821(A)(1).

14 (v) The parish may, at its option, enact ordinances to add cutting and  
15 removal charges to the annual ad valorem tax bill of the property involved. In ~~the~~  
16 ~~parishes of Jefferson and St. Bernard~~ Parish, if such charges are unpaid, the ad  
17 valorem tax lien imposed thereby and such rights attendant thereto shall coexist with  
18 those granted under Item (iv) of this Subparagraph.

19 \* \* \*

20 (vii) In the exercise of the authority granted by this Subparagraph to ~~the~~  
21 ~~parishes of Jefferson and St. Bernard~~ Parish, the respective parish shall be the sole  
22 and proper defendant in any action, authorized by law, to contest the addition of such  
23 charges to the ad valorem tax bill of the property involved.

24 \* \* \*

25 (i)(i) The governing authority of St. Bernard Parish may enact ordinances  
26 regulating or prohibiting the growth or accumulation of grass, obnoxious weeds, or  
27 other deleterious or unhealthful growths, trash, debris, refuse, or discarded or  
28 noxious matter.

1           (ii) In the exercise of the authority granted by this Subparagraph, the parish  
2           governing authority may, among other things, but not by way of limitation, require  
3           or compel property owners to cut or remove such grass, obnoxious weeds, or other  
4           deleterious or unhealthful growths, trash, debris, refuse, or discarded or noxious  
5           matter on their property.

6           (iii) If the owner of any lot located within recognized subdivisions outside  
7           municipalities in the parish fails to cut or remove such matter when requested to do  
8           so by the governing authority, within seven days after receipt of such request or  
9           notice by a registered or certified letter or other adequate notice, the governing  
10           authority may have such matter cut or removed and may charge such property owner  
11           in accordance with regulations adopted by the governing authority.

12           (iv) Upon failure of any such property owner to pay the charges, the  
13           governing authority may file a certified copy of the charges with the recorder of  
14           mortgages, and the same, when so filed and recorded, shall operate as a lien and  
15           privilege in favor of the parish against the property on which the matter was cut or  
16           removed. In St. Bernard Parish, the lien and privilege granted under this Paragraph,  
17           when recorded within sixty days from the date of completion of the cutting or  
18           removal, shall have the same ranking as an ad valorem tax lien on immovable  
19           property as provided in R.S. 9:4821(A)(1).

20           (v) The parish may, at its option, enact ordinances to add cutting and  
21           removal charges to the annual ad valorem tax bill of the property involved. In St.  
22           Bernard Parish, if such charges are unpaid, the ad valorem tax lien imposed thereby  
23           and such rights attendant thereto shall coexist with those granted under Item (iv) of  
24           this Subparagraph.

25           (vi) If such ordinances are enacted, the sheriff effecting collection shall be  
26           reimbursed by the governing authority for any amount equal to fifteen percent of the  
27           amount of such charges actually collected from the property owner. This collection  
28           charge shall be in addition to such charges and shall also be added to the ad valorem  
29           tax bill of the property involved.

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(vii) In the exercise of the authority granted by this Subparagraph to

2

St. Bernard Parish, the parish shall be the sole and proper defendant in any action,

3

authorized by law, to contest the addition of such charges to the ad valorem tax bill

4

of the property involved.

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\* \* \*

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 200 Original

2026 Regular Session

Bayham

**Abstract:** Authorizes St. Bernard Parish to cut or remove deleterious or unhealthful growths and other discarded or noxious matter and to charge the property owner under certain conditions.

Present law authorizes the governing authority of St. Bernard Parish to enact ordinances regulating or prohibiting the growth or accumulation of grass, obnoxious weeds, or other deleterious or unhealthful growths, trash, debris, refuse, or discarded or noxious matter on property within the parish. Authorizes the parish governing authority, if the owner fails to take the required action within 15 days of notice, to have the matter cut or removed and to charge the property owner. Authorizes the parish governing authority to place a lien against a property if the owner does not pay, such lien having the same ranking as an ad valorem tax lien. Additionally authorizes the parish governing authority to add the removal charges to the annual ad valorem tax bill.

Proposed law authorizes the governing authority of St. Bernard Parish to have the matter cut or removed and to charge the property owner if the owner fails to take the required action within seven days of notice instead of 15 days. Otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 33:1236(21)(b)(i), (iv), (v), and (vii); Adds R.S. 33:1236(21)(i))