

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 637

BY REPRESENTATIVE COATES

ENERGY: Establishes habitat conversion fees for large-scale solar development

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 30:1128, relative to conversion fees for large-scale solar development; to  
3 authorize the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to impose fees for the conversion  
4 of important habitat and species; to authorize rule making; to provide for the deposit  
5 and use of fees collected; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related  
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 30:1128 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §1128. Conversion fees; habitat and wildlife

10 A. The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to impose a fee  
11 on solar power generation facilities with a footprint of ten acres or more to help  
12 mitigate the loss of important habitat and species pursuant to the letter of clearance  
13 process in R.S. 30:1125(A)(3).

14 B. The department shall promulgate rules in accordance with the  
15 Administrative Procedure Act for the development of a method to charge a per acre  
16 fee on such solar power generation facilities to offset the impacts of large scale solar  
17 developments on wildlife habitats, loss of biodiversity, and reduction in ecosystem  
18 function and services. The department may establish a system of required  
19 compensatory mitigation for habitat lost based on historic ecological function and  
20 resources impacted. Mitigation values may be based on the following:



Proposed law provides that the method of calculating fees may be based on the following:

- (1) Geographic location.
- (2) Market value.
- (3) Rarity of the habitat.
- (4) Quality of the habitat.
- (5) Presence of at-risk species.
- (6) Comparisons of mitigation value for similarly situated property or habitat.
- (7) Costs associated with restoring or conserving similar habitat.
- (8) Any other factor deemed necessary to establish a method to be applied statewide.

Proposed law requires any fees collected pursuant to proposed law be deposited into the Conservation Fund.

Proposed law requires that fees collected pursuant to proposed law be used only for the costs incurred by the dept. during the letter of clearance process and for the costs to protect, replace, or mitigate the loss of habitat being converted for large-scale solar development.

Effective only if HB 615 of this 2025 Regular Session becomes law.

(Adds R.S. 30:1128)