

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 349

BY SENATOR CATHEY

SUNSET LAW. Re-creates Department of Agriculture and Forestry. (6/30/26)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 49:191(3)(b) and to repeal R.S. 49:191(1)(k), relative to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, including provisions to provide for the re-creation of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the statutory entities made a part of the department by law; to provide for the effective termination date for all statutory authority for the existence of such statutory entities; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Pursuant to R.S. 49:193, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the statutory entities made a part of the department by law shall be re-created effective June 30, 2026, and all statutory authority therefore is continued in accordance with the provisions of Part XII of Chapter 1 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

Section 2. All statutory authority for the existence of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the statutory entities made a part of the department as re-created by Section 1 of this Act shall cease as of July 1, 2031, pursuant to R.S. 49:191. However, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry may be re-created prior to such date in accordance with the provisions of Part XII of Chapter 1 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of

1 1950.

2 Section 3. The provisions of R.S. 49:193 are hereby superseded to the extent that
3 those provisions are in conflict with the provisions of this Act.

4 Section 4. R.S. 49:191(3)(b) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

5 §191. Termination of legislative authority for existence of statutory entities;
6 phase-out period for statutory entities; table of dates

7 Notwithstanding any termination dates set by any previous Act of the
8 legislature, the statutory entities set forth in this Section shall begin to terminate their
9 operations on July first of each of the following years, and all legislative authority
10 for the existence of any statutory entity, as defined in R.S. 49:190, shall cease as of
11 July first of the following year, which shall be the termination date:

12 * * *

13 (3) July 1, 2030:

14 * * *

15 **(b) The Department of Agriculture and Forestry and all statutory**
16 **entities made a part of the department by law.**

17 Section 5. R.S. 49:191(1)(k) is hereby repealed in its entirety.

18 Section 6. This Act shall become effective on June 30, 2026; if vetoed by the
19 governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on
20 June 30, 2026, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

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Present law provides that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and all statutory entities made a part of that department by law begin to terminate their operations on July 1, 2026, and that all legislative authority for such entities must cease as of July 1, 2027, unless the legislature enacts a bill authorizing the re-creation of the department and its statutory entities prior thereto.

Proposed law provides for the general re-creation of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and its statutory entities, effective June 30, 2026, in accordance with the "sunset" law.

Proposed law supersedes the provisions of the "sunset" law which requires a separate bill to re-create each statutory entity within the department.

Proposed law makes July 1, 2031, the new termination date and termination would begin July 1, 2030, unless the department is re-created again.

Effective June 30, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 49:191(3)(b); repeals R.S. 49:191(1)(k))