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

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SB 185 Engrossed DIGEST Allain  
2021 Regular Session

Present law 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.

Proposed law retains present law 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.

Proposed law authorizes 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, decommissioning and final site closure upon termination of the lease, and placement of the program within the Dept. of Natural Resources.

Proposed law delays implementation of the promulgated rules until the secretary identifies funding through fees, federal grants, or other sources.

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

Present law prohibits the secretary from precluding any person from developing, installing, or operating a solar device on his own property.

Proposed law provides that this prohibition applies to residential use only.

Effective August 1, 2021.

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Natural Resources to the original bill

1. Adds that the rules provide for placement of the program within the Dept. of Natural Resources.

2. Delays implementation of the promulgated rules until the secretary identifies funding.
3. Adds to the present law prohibition on the secretary from precluding the use of solar on a landowners property, that the use is a residential use.