

**GREEN SHEET REDIGEST**

**HB 808**

**2024 Regular Session**

**Mike Johnson**

**CEMETERIES: Regulates the operation of abandoned cemeteries.**

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DIGEST

Proposed law permits a municipal or parochial government to abate a public health or safety risk of an abandoned cemetery when the cemetery is located within the jurisdiction of that municipal or parochial government.

Proposed law provides that the abatement of such risk shall take place at the sole and complete discretion of the governing body upon a majority vote.

Proposed law provides that proposed law shall not be interpreted to authorize the disturbance of any graves or the moving or removal of human remains or grave markers.

Proposed law provides that when exposed human remains are found during abatement activities, the municipal or parochial government or a volunteer who is undertaking the abatement shall notify the appropriate state authorities in accordance with present law.

Proposed law provides that in the event of a declared disaster, the parish president or the chief elected official of a municipality may abate any public safety risk or public health hazard in a public or private cemetery caused by the declared disaster.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial delay.

(Adds R.S. 8:908)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Commerce to the original bill:

1. Prohibit the moving or removal of grave markers.
2. Make technical changes.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs to the engrossed bill

1. Authorizes the parish president or the chief elected official of a municipality to abate any public safety risk or public health hazard in a cemetery caused by a declared disaster.
2. Makes technical changes.