

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 459

2025 Regular Session

Coates

ENERGY/ALTERNATE: Provides for renewable energy regulation and permitting.

DIGEST

Proposed law requires operators of renewable energy storage facilities to obtain a permit for installation and decommissioning from the Dept. of Energy and Natural Resources (DENR) prior to installing a battery.

Proposed law requires a permit to construct or complete an onshore wind project from the DENR.

Proposed law prohibits the issuance of a permit for renewable energy projects without proof of financial security and a decommissioning plan.

Proposed law requires the secretary of the dept. to promulgate and adopt regulations necessary for the enforcement of proposed law by Aug. 31, 2026.

Proposed law excludes residential properties from the applicability of proposed law.

Proposed law provides a definition for "onshore".

Proposed law provides DENR permitting authority for solar power generation facilities of 75 acres or more.

Proposed law requires that any solar facility of 75 acres or more and not wholly within a industrial-zoned area or LED certified site adhere to siting requirements, including setbacks, opaque vegetative barriers, and plans stamped by a landscape architect or horticulturalist.

Proposed law allows a parish government to create its own siting requirements and opt out of state requirements by resolution.

Proposed law requires for residential properties a 300 foot setback from the property line to the nearest solar equipment, with a 35 foot barrier of new landscaping or a 50 foot barrier of natural plants. Prohibits noise more than 10 decibels above the pre-construction ambient noise level at the property line. Further allows landowners to opt out of siting requirements through written agreement with the facility operator.

Proposed law requires for natural and navigable waterways a 100 foot setback from the low water mark to the nearest solar equipment.

Proposed law requires for public roads a 50 foot setback from the pavement edge to the nearest solar equipment, with a 35 foot vegetative barrier.

Proposed law requires any solar facility constructed after January 1, 2026 to comply with state siting requirements.

Proposed law prohibits spraying of any chemical for maintenance of a solar facility, if the chemical is not approved for agricultural use.

(Adds R.S. 30:1131 and 1141 through 1145)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to the original bill:

1. Provide an exclusion for applicability of proposed law to residential property use.

2. Define "onshore" as land-based wind turbines and those located on inland water bodies.
3. Make technical changes.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Add a deadline of Aug. 31, 2026, by which rules and regulations must be promulgated and adopted.
2. Make technical changes.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Make technical changes.
2. Grant permitting authority to DENR for solar facilities of 75 acres or more.
3. Allow parish governments to create their own siting requirements and to opt out of state siting requirements by resolution.
4. Allow the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry and the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to comment on solar projects.
5. Require any solar facility of 75 acres or more and not wholly within an industrial-zoned area or LED certified site, to comply with siting requirements, including setbacks, opaque vegetative barriers, and plans stamped by a licensed landscape architect or horticulturalist.
6. For residential properties adjacent to solar facilities, require 300 foot setback from the property line, with 35 foot new planting or 50 foot natural vegetative barrier.
7. Allow landowners to opt out of siting requirements by written agreement with the facility operator.
8. Require 100 foot setback from natural and navigable waterways.
9. Require 50 foot setback with 35 foot vegetative barrier from public roads.
10. Prohibit noise more than 10 decibels above the pre-construction ambient noise level at the property line.
11. Provide that siting requirements apply to facilities constructed after January 1, 2026.
12. Prohibit spraying of maintenance chemicals not approved for agricultural use.