

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

HB 956

2026 Regular Session

Fontenot

June 1, 2026

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives and the Honorable President and Members of the Senate.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning House Bill No. 956 by Representative Fontenot, recommend the following concerning the Reengrossed bill:

1. That Senate Committee Amendments Nos. 1 through 4 by the Senate Committee on Judiciary B (#2424) be adopted.
2. That Senate Committee Amendment No. 5 by the Senate Committee on Judiciary B (#2424) be rejected.
3. That the set of Senate Floor Amendments by Senator Reese (#2874) be adopted.
4. That the following amendments to the Reengrossed bill be adopted:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

In Senate Committee Amendment No. 4 by the Senate Committee on Judiciary B (#2424), on page 1, line 15, after "first;" delete the remainder of the line

AMENDMENT NO. 2

In Senate Committee Amendment No. 4 by the Senate Committee on Judiciary B (#2424), on page 1, delete line 16 in its entirety and insert in lieu thereof "seven"

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 1, line 3, after "(H)(1)," delete the remainder of the line and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"656(A), (C)(1)(f), (E), and (F), and 658(A), to enact R.S. 51:656(F), and to repeal"

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 1, line 6, after "fees;" and before "and" insert "to prohibit shipment or delivery of fireworks; to provide relative to local licensing; to provide for an effective date;"

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 1, line 9, after "(H)(1)," delete the remainder of the line and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"656(A), (C)(1)(f), (E), and (F), and 658(A) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S."

AMENDMENT NO. 6

On page 1, line 10, change "R.S. 51:656(F)" to "R.S. 51:656(F)"

AMENDMENT NO. 7

On page 5, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following:

"A.(1) It is unlawful to sell, construct, or manufacture any items of fireworks without first obtaining a retail permit properly issued by the state fire marshal.

(2) Direct-to-consumer shipment, mailing, or delivery of consumer fireworks by any licensee, out-of-state seller, common carrier, broker, third-party, or person is prohibited.

(3) The state fire marshal may promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to effectuate and enforce the provisions of this Section.

* * *

AMENDMENT NO. 8

On page 5, delete lines 27 and 28 in their entirety and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"E. It is unlawful for any person to purchase fireworks from a wholesaler, manufacturer, assembler, distributor, importer, or jobber without first obtaining a valid retail permit issued by the state fire marshal. No action taken pursuant to this Part shall impair the lawful sale of consumer fireworks that were lawfully acquired by a licensed retailer pursuant to this Part."

AMENDMENT NO. 9

On page 6, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

"* * *

§658. Penalties

A.(1) ~~No~~ A manufacturer, assembler, distributor, importer, jobber, or retailer shall not operate within the state of Louisiana without proper permit.

(2) A wholesaler, manufacturer, assembler, distributor, importer, jobber, or retailer within this state, or any common carrier, broker, third-party, or other person shall not sell for delivery or cause to be delivered any consumer fireworks within this state.

(3) A person found operating within the state of Louisiana without a proper permit shall immediately cease the sale of fireworks upon the lawful order of the state fire marshal, a certified local authority of the fire marshal, or any local law enforcement official until such time as an application for permit has been made to the state fire marshal as required in R.S. 51:656 and subsequently granted. The application for a retail permit shall be notarized and shall attest that each location on the application is situated in a jurisdiction which allows legal retail fireworks sales, that no open flame heating devices are located at any listed location, that there are no facilities for sleeping and sleeping is not allowed in any listed location, and that no listed location is used for residential purposes or for other than the purpose of making retail sales of fireworks. Violation by transmission of a false statement or false representation of any information required by this Paragraph may be prosecuted pursuant to R.S. 14:125 and shall be the basis for revocation of all permits held by the applicant.

~~(3)~~ (4) The refusal of any person to cease sales and obtain a permit or the failure of any person to comply with a lawful order of the state fire marshal, a certified local authority of the fire marshal, or any local law enforcement official, may be cause for the seizure of any merchandise and equipment of the person found in violation at any physical location. Those items seized shall be retained until otherwise directed by a court of competent jurisdiction. If the state fire marshal, a certified local authority of the fire marshal, or a local law enforcement official is not otherwise ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction within ninety days of the date of seizure to return the items seized, then the state fire marshal, certified local authority, or local law enforcement official may destroy or dispose of the seized

items in such a manner which, in their discretion, they deem suitable in order to protect the public safety.

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Respectfully submitted,

Representative Bryan Fontenot

Senator W. Jay Luneau

Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel

Senator Robert "Bob" Owen

Representative Neil Riser

Senator Mike Reese

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

HB 956

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Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House

FIRE PROTECT/FIRE MARSHAL: Provides relative to fireworks

Report adopts Senate amendments to:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Allow fireworks to be sold at retail in the days leading up to the holidays of Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday, Memorial Day, and Labor Day.
3. Change the beginning time of the day at which fireworks may be sold at retail on allowed days from noon to 7:00 a.m.
4. Change application of licensing fee increase to \$200 for a new license and \$100 for a renewal from applying to a pyrotechnic special effects operator license only to applying to a pyrotechnic operator's license, a pyrotechnic special effects operator license, and a blaster's license.

Report rejects Senate amendments which would have:

1. Amended provision requiring a valid retail permit to purchase fireworks from requiring such permit to purchase from a wholesaler to requiring such permit to purchase from a distributor.

Report amends the bill to:

1. Remove provision of proposed law allowing fireworks to be sold in the days leading up to Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday.
2. Prohibit direct-to-consumer shipment, mailing, or delivery of consumer fireworks by any licensee, out-of-state seller, common carrier, broker, third-party, or person, and allows the state fire marshal to effectuate and enforce this prohibition by rulemaking.
3. Amend provision requiring a valid retail permit to purchase fireworks from requiring such permit to purchase from a wholesaler to requiring such permit to purchase from a manufacturer, assembler, distributor, importer, or jobber.
4. Provide that no action taken pursuant to proposed law shall impair the lawful sale of consumer fireworks that were lawfully acquired by a licensed retailer pursuant to proposed law.

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

Present law provides for definitions.

Proposed law amends definitions of "proximate display", "public display", "pyrotechnic operator", and "pyrotechnic special effects operator" and repeals definitions of "Class C public display" and "pyrotechnic operator".

Present law prohibits certain types of fireworks from being possessed, used, or sold in this state.

Proposed law provides that only items classified as 1.4G fireworks in compliance with APA Standard 87-1A may be sold by a properly licensed retailer to the public.

Present law provides that a licensee whose license has expired for 2 years or more and makes application for a new license shall retake and pass the written examination to receive a renewed license.

Proposed law provides that a licensee in that circumstance shall receive a new license.

Present law provides a fee for a pyrotechnic operator, pyrotechnic special effects operator, or blaster license of \$50 for a new license and \$25 for a license renewal.

Proposed law increases the fees to \$200 for a new license and \$100 for a renewal.

Present law provides for requirements to make a Class C public display and for licensing to make such a display.

Proposed law repeals the requirements for Class C public displays and licensing.

Present law provides requirements for a permit application for a Class C display, public display, or proximate display of fireworks.

Proposed law removes requirements for Class C public displays, and proposed law adds the requirement for public displays or proximate displays to have a current certificate of insurance issued to the state fire marshal showing general liability coverage in the amount of one million dollars.

Present law provides an application fee for a public display or proximate display permit of \$100, and a \$25 fee for a Class C public display permit.

Proposed law provides for a \$200 fee for public display or proximate display, and a \$100 fee for renewal of that permit. Proposed law removes the fee for a Class C public display.

Present law provides that the state fire marshal may promulgate rules and regulations regarding public displays, proximate displays, and Class C displays.

Proposed law removes the reference to Class C displays.

Present law provides for a retailer a \$100 fee for a permit to sell fireworks.

Proposed law increases the fee to \$250.

Present law provides that it is unlawful to sell, construct, or manufacture any items of fireworks without first obtaining a retail permit properly issued by the state fire marshal.

Present law provides for sales of retail fireworks annually from noon on June 16 through midnight on July 5, and from noon on December 15 to midnight on January 1.

Proposed law would move those start times to 7:00 a.m. on those days, and additionally allow sales of fireworks from 7:00 a.m. on the Tuesday prior to Memorial Day through midnight on Memorial Day, and from 7:00 a.m. on the Tuesday prior to Labor Day until midnight on Labor Day, but otherwise maintains present law.

Proposed law adds that it is unlawful to sell fireworks by mailing, delivery, or direct-to-consumer shipment.

Proposed law makes it unlawful for any person to purchase fireworks from a wholesaler, manufacturer, assembler, distributor, importer, or jobber without first obtaining a valid retail permit issued by the state fire marshal.

Proposed law provides that no action taken pursuant to proposed law shall impair the lawful sale of consumer fireworks that were lawfully acquired by a licensed retailer pursuant to proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 51:650(23), (24), (26), and (28), 651.1(B), 655(C)(3) and (8), (E), (G), and (H)(1), 656(A), (C)(1)(f), (E), and (F), and 658(A); Adds R.S. 51:656(F); Repeals R.S. 51:650(6) and (27) and 655(D))