
DIGEST

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Lambert

HB No. 1056

Abstract: Provides for certain assessments to be levied, imposed, and collected on artificial crawfish bait, crawfish tail meat, and on bags used to package live crawfish; removes the appointment term for members of the La. Crawfish Promotion and Research Board; and removes the authority for referenda for assessment purposes.

Present law provides for an assessment to be levied and imposed, subject to a referendum, of 1/4 of 1¢ per pound on artificial crawfish bait to be paid by the crawfish farmers and harvesters.

Proposed law retains present law provision for the levy of an assessment on artificial crawfish bait but removes present law referendum requirement for assessment purposes.

Present law provides for an assessment to be levied and imposed, subject to a referendum, on each bag used to package live crawfish in the amount of 1¢ for bags holding less than 25 pounds of crawfish and 2¢ on bags holding 25 or more pounds, to be paid by crawfish farmers and harvesters who purchase the bags. Provides for the expiration of the initial assessment if approved in a referendum.

Proposed law retains present law provision for the levy of an assessment on bags used to package live crawfish by certain weight but removes present law referendum requirement for assessment purposes.

Present law provides for an assessment of 1¢ per pound on crawfish tail meat sold in the state subject to a referendum vote by a majority of producers.

Proposed law retains present law assessment relative to crawfish tail meat but removes present law referendum requirement for assessment purposes.

Present law allows the assessment on crawfish tail meat to be collected at the first point of sale by the producer or distributor and remitted to the La. Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) by a certain date, only if the assessment is approved by a referendum.

Proposed law retains present law stipulation for crawfish tail meat assessment collection at the first point of sale but removes present law referendum requirement for assessment purposes.

Present law provides that members of the board be appointed for terms concurrent with that of the commissioner making the appointment. Further provides that members serve until their

successors are appointed and sworn into office.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law provides that no assessment be levied or imposed unless approved by a majority of farmers and harvesters voting in a referendum. Further provides for the effective date of the assessment which may be reimposed indefinitely in five-year increments. Additionally provides for certain criteria to be met for participation in the referenda as conducted by the LDAF and provides that reimposition assessments on artificial bait and bags be conducted separately.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law provides for a referendum to abolish an assessment to be called by the board if 1/3 of the crawfish tail meat producers submit a petition for such purpose. Provides for the effective date of an approved or abolished assessment. Defines the criteria for referendum participation. Provides for the LDAF to conduct the referendum and for the notification of referendum results.

Proposed law repeals present law.

(Amends R.S. 3:556.6(A) and (B) and 556.14(A) and (H); Repeals R.S. 3:556.3(D), 556.7, and 556.14(B), (C), (E), (F), and (G))