
DIGEST

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HB 761 Reengrossed

2015 Regular Session

Woodruff

Abstract: Establishes urban agriculture incentive zones. Provides a procedure for the enactment of urban agriculture incentive zones. Provides rules, regulations and fees for urban agriculture incentive zones. Provides contract provisions related to urban agriculture incentive zones. Provides prohibitions for urban agriculture incentive zones. Provides definitions for "urban", "urban agriculture incentive zone" and "agricultural use". Modifies definition of "bona fide agricultural land".

Proposed law establishes urban agriculture incentive zones in urban areas with a population of at least 45,000 people.

Proposed law creates procedures for political subdivisions to establish urban agriculture incentive zones.

Proposed law establishes rules and regulations that political subdivisions must follow when imposing fees for the implementation and administration of urban agriculture incentive zones.

Proposed law provides contract requirements that political subdivisions must adhere to when contracting with landowners affected by the urban agricultural incentive zones that include the following:

- (1) An initial term of not less than three years.
- (2) A restriction that property is at least 3,000 square feet and not more than three acres.
- (3) A requirement that the entire property subject to the contract is dedicated toward commercial or noncommercial agricultural use.
- (4) A prohibition against any dwelling on the property while under contract.
- (5) A notification that if a landowner cancels a contract, the political subdivision is required to impose a cancellation fee.

Proposed law provides guidelines that require political subdivisions to abstain from taking action in reference to urban agricultural incentive zones.

Proposed law defines "urban", "urban agricultural incentive zone", and "agricultural use" in reference

to urban agriculture incentive zones.

Proposed law modifies the present law definition of "bona fide agricultural land" to include property included in urban agriculture incentive zones.

(Amends R.S. 47:2302(A); Adds R.S. 3:4751-4754)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Change the size of the property subject to restriction by contract for agriculture incentive zones from at least a 0.10 of an acre to 3,000 square feet.
3. Decrease the initial contract term from five years to three years.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.