
DIGEST

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HB 859 Original

2018 Regular Session

McFarland

Abstract: Establishes a timber hauling permit and provides for distribution of funds and additional reimbursement for road repair due to damage resulting from the transportation of timber.

Present law specifies the powers and duties of the La. Forestry Commission.

Proposed law adds the authority for the commission to hold disciplinary hearings for any individual who has been issued a citation for failure to not obtain a timber hauling permit and make recommendations to the commissioner of agriculture on discipline and fines.

Proposed law creates a timber hauling permit to be issued by the Dept. of Agriculture to every vehicle hauling timber in the state.

Proposed law requires that the permit be renewed every two years at a cost of not more than \$200.

Proposed law authorizes forestry enforcement officers to issue citations to individuals who fail to obtain the permit.

Proposed law allows the department to allocate 5% of permit fees to operating costs and requires distribution of the remaining funds to parishes based on their annual timber production to be used solely for road repair.

Proposed law prohibits any local government from enacting timber hauling regulations after Jan. 1, 2019.

Proposed law allows parishes to collect additional reimbursement for road repair materials from timber hauling contractors and timber owners, contingent on agreement of the parties, only if all timber hauling permit funds and severance taxes have been exhausted on road maintenance.

Proposed law limits the total reimbursement to up to \$2,500 for each timber harvesting site.

Proposed law authorizes the department to audit all documents relating to timber severance tax collection.

(Adds R.S. 3:4274(A)(6), 4278.4, and 4278.5)