

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 754

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUSTIN MILLER

AGRICULTURE: Expands the powers and authority of livestock brand inspectors

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 3:734(C) and (D), relative to livestock brand inspectors; to provide for the  
3 expansion of powers and duties of livestock brand inspectors as commissioned peace  
4 officers under certain circumstances; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 3:734(C) and (D) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §734. Livestock brand inspectors

8 \* \* \*

9 C. Additionally, while on special assignment during any riot, insurrection,  
10 or any declared disaster or while in protection of immovable property, movable  
11 property, assets, and resources of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, any  
12 commissioned livestock brand inspector shall possess all the powers and authority  
13 of regular law enforcement officers of this state.

14 D. Upon the request of any regular law enforcement agency of this state,  
15 livestock brand inspectors shall prevent and detect crime, apprehend criminals,  
16 enforce the criminal and traffic laws of the state, keep the peace and good order in  
17 the state in the enforcement of the state's police powers, and perform any other  
18 related duties imposed upon them by the legislature.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 754 Original

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Dustin Miller

**Abstract:** Expands the authority of livestock brand inspectors as peace officers by granting them certain law enforcement and police powers when exercising their duties under specific situations or by request of local law enforcement agencies.

Present law requires livestock brand inspectors have certain powers and duties as peace officers to perform law enforcement functions relative to rules and regulations enacted by the La. Board of Animal Health, Part 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 3 of the La. Revised Statutes of 1950, provisions in the La. Criminal Code related to the theft of animals, the illegal branding or marking of animals, the disposition of strayed animals, the theft of any farm machinery, equipment, or supplies, and with respect to any other farm-related crime.

Proposed law retains present law and expands the powers and duties of livestock brand inspectors to add the following:

(1) While on special assignment during any riot, insurrection, or any declared disaster or while in protection of immovable property, movable property, assets, and resources of the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry, any commissioned livestock brand inspector will possess all the powers and authority of regular law enforcement officers of this state.

(2) Upon the request of any regular law enforcement agency of this state, livestock brand inspectors must prevent and detect crime, apprehend criminals, enforce the criminal and traffic laws of the state, keep the peace and good order in the state in the enforcement of the state's police powers, and perform any other related duties imposed upon them by the legislature.

(Adds R.S. 3:734(C) and (D))