

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 893

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHAMERHORN

AGRICULTURE: Requires solar farms to have buffer zones between the operational area of a solar farm and any adjoining residential area

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 30:1154(E) and (F) and to enact R.S. 30:1154(G), relative to  
3 solar farm regulations; to require a buffer zone around the perimeter of a solar farm;  
4 to provide for the perimeters of the buffer zone; to provide for definitions; and to  
5 provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 30:1154(E) and (F) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
8 30:1154(G) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §1154. Regulations governing solar power generation facilities; solar leases; solar  
10 farms

11 \* \* \*

12 E.(1) There shall be a buffer zone around the perimeter of any solar farm.

13 The buffer zone required by this Subsection shall meet all of the following  
14 requirements:

15 (a)(i) Include a setback of no less than three hundred feet from the center of  
16 any adjacent public roadway.

17 (ii) Include a setback of at least one hundred fifty feet from any residence  
18 and fifty feet from any adjacent property line.

19 (b) Include a stand of trees or shrubbery, known as a green space, between  
20 the operational area of the solar farm and the adjacent roadway or property, to screen

1        the solar farm from view. The green space shall be no less than twenty-five feet and  
2        within the permitted parameters provided in this Subsection.

3                (c) Be maintained in such a manner so as to not present a nuisance as  
4        provided for otherwise in the Code of Ordinances of the parish where the solar farm  
5        is located. Maintenance of a buffer zone shall be subject to the enforcement  
6        provisions in regard to nuisances.

7                (2) The sale of solar energy, a solar device, or any solar power generation  
8        facility shall be prohibited upon failure to comply with the provisions of this  
9        Subsection.

10               E. F. For purposes of this Section, the following terms shall have the  
11        meanings ascribed to them in this Subsection, unless the context or use clearly  
12        indicates otherwise:

13                (1) "Salvage value" means the actual or estimated scrap value of the raw  
14        materials once removed from the facility and ready for sale.

15                (2) "Solar device" means a solar energy collector or solar energy system that  
16        provides for the collection of solar energy or the subsequent use of that energy as  
17        thermal, mechanical, or electrical energy.

18                (3) "Solar farm" means the use of land where a series of solar collectors and  
19        related equipment and accessories are placed in an area on a parcel of land for the  
20        purpose of generating photovoltaic power which has a generation capacity of at least  
21        fifty kilowatts direct current or more when operating at maximum efficiently. The  
22        term solar farm shall not be interpreted to mean one of more solar collectors intended  
23        to provide electrical power generation for a single residential dwelling or commercial  
24        property.

25                ~~(3)~~ (4) "Solar power generation facility" means one or more solar devices  
26        and any facility or equipment used to support the operation of the solar devices,  
27        including any underground or above-ground electrical transmission or  
28        communications line located within the footprint of the facility, an electric

1 transformer, a battery storage facility, an energy storage facility, telecommunications  
2 equipment, a road, a meteorological tower, or a maintenance yard.

3 F. G. Any violation of any regulation adopted by the secretary pursuant to  
4 this Section may be enjoined in the manner prescribed by law.

## 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)]

HB 893 Original

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Schamerhorn

**Abstract:** Requires buffer zones around the perimeters of solar farms and provides certain parameters for such buffer zones.

Proposed law requires buffer zones around the perimeters of solar farms. Further requires that such buffer zones include the following parameters:

- (1) A setback of no less than 300 ft. from the center of any adjacent public roadway.
- (2) A setback of at least 150 ft. from any residence and 50 ft. from any adjacent property line.
- (3) At least a 25-ft. stand of trees or shrubbery within the buffer zones, known as a green space, between the operational area of the solar farm and the adjacent roadway or property to screen the solar farm from view.
- (4) Be maintained in such a manner so as to not present a nuisance as pursuant to the Code of Ordinances of the parish where the solar farm is located.

Proposed law prohibits the sale of solar energy, a solar device, or any solar power generation facility if it does not comply with proposed law.

Proposed law defines "solar farm" as the use of land where a series of solar collectors and related equipment and accessories are placed in an area on a parcel of land for the purpose of generating photovoltaic power having generation capacity of at least 50 kw direct current or more when operating at maximum efficiently. Specifies that the term "solar farm" can not be interpreted to mean one of more solar collectors intended to provide electrical power generation for a single residential dwelling or commercial property.

(Amends R.S. 30:1154(E) and (F); Adds R.S. 30:1154(G))