

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 615

BY REPRESENTATIVE GEYMANN

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

ENERGY/SOLAR: Provides for the regulation of solar facilities

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 9:1255(B) and (C), to enact Parts I and II of Chapter 12 of

3 Subtitle I of Title 30 of the Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S.

4 30:1121 through 1127 and R.S. 30:1141, and to repeal Chapter 12-A of Subtitle I of

5 Title 30 of the Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 30:1151 through 1159,

6 relative to renewable energy development; to provide definitions; to provide for

7 purpose; to provide for state and local jurisdiction and authority; to provide for

8 residential use of solar panels; to provide for notice and public participation; to

9 require permitting of solar power generation facilities; to provide for the powers and

10 duties of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, the Department of

11 Wildlife and Fisheries, and the Department of Agriculture and Forestry; to authorize

12 administrative rulemaking; to establish permit requirements; to require letters of

13 clearance regarding impacts on natural and agricultural resources; to provide for

14 financial security and decommissioning plans; to provide exceptions for facilities

15 within industrial zones and Louisiana Economic Development certified sites; to

16 provide for pre-existing facilities; to establish siting standards with setbacks,

17 vegetative buffers, and noise level limits; to establish a procedure for siting waivers;

18 to provide for local approval of certain plans; to prohibit chemical spraying,

19 concentrating thermal technology; to prohibit solar development by foreign

20 adversaries; and to provide for related matters.

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

2 Section 1. R.S. 9:1255(B) and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
3 follows:

4 §1255. Solar collectors; right of use

5 \* \* \*

6 B. No person or entity shall unreasonably restrict the right of a property  
7 owner to install or use a solar collector for residential purposes.

8 C. The provisions of this Section shall not supersede zoning restrictions,  
9 servitudes as provided by Civil Code Article 697 et seq., ~~or~~ building restrictions, as  
10 provided by Civil Code Article 775 et seq., or Chapter 12 of Subtitle I of Title 30 of  
11 the Revised Statutes of 1950, which require approval or permitting prior to the  
12 installation or use of solar collectors.

13 \* \* \*

14 Section 2. Parts I and II of Chapter 12 of Subtitle I of Title 30 of the Revised  
15 Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 30:1121 through 1127 and R.S. 30:1141 are hereby  
16 amended and reenacted to read as follows:

17 CHAPTER 12. RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

18 PART I. SOLAR POWER GENERATION FACILITIES

19 §1121. Definitions

20 As used in this Chapter:

21 (1) "Nonparticipating" means not owned by a facility operator or not having  
22 a contractual agreement with a facility operator authorizing the use of one's property  
23 for activities related to the development of solar energy on one's property.

24 (2) "Salvage value" means the actual or estimated scrap value of the raw  
25 materials once removed from the facility and ready for sale.

26 (3) "Solar device" means the equipment associated with the collection,  
27 transfer, distribution, storage, and control of solar energy, including solar energy  
28 collectors or solar energy systems that provide for the collection of solar energy or  
29 the subsequent use of that energy as thermal, mechanical, or electrical energy.

1           (4) "Solar power generation facility" or "facility" means one or more solar  
 2           devices and any installation or equipment used to support the operation of the solar  
 3           devices, including any underground or above-ground electrical transmission or  
 4           communications lines located within the footprint of the facility, electric  
 5           transformers and inverters, battery storage, energy storage, telecommunications  
 6           equipment, roads, meteorological towers, and maintenance yards.

7           §1122. Purpose

8           It is the public policy of Louisiana and the purpose of this Chapter to provide  
 9           for a coordinated statewide program and comprehensive set of standards for the  
 10           regulation of large-scale solar energy development in order to balance the state's  
 11           energy needs and economic development with the state's constitutional responsibility  
 12           to protect, conserve, and replenish the natural resources of the state and the healthful,  
 13           scenic, historic, and esthetic quality of the environment consistent with the health,  
 14           safety, and welfare of the people.

15           §1123. Jurisdiction; authority of the department, local governing authorities

16           A.(1) The secretary of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources  
 17           shall have jurisdiction over all persons and property, and shall have the authority to  
 18           perform all acts, necessary to enforce the provisions of this Chapter and any rules  
 19           adopted pursuant to this Chapter.

20           (2) The secretary shall promulgate any rules necessary to implement the  
 21           provisions of this Chapter, including rules for the required financial security,  
 22           permitting, siting, and decommissioning of facilities.

23           B.(1) Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to relieve solar power  
 24           generation facilities from complying with the general laws of a parish, such as  
 25           comprehensive plans, zoning regulations, land use planning, historical preservation,  
 26           and nuisance regulations. Parishes may also enact and enforce any regulatory  
 27           provisions regarding solar power generation facilities that are more stringent than the  
 28           standards provided in this Chapter.

1           (2) In addition to the authority recognized in Paragraph (1) of this  
2           Subsection, parishes are authorized to enact and enforce regulatory provisions  
3           regarding solar power generation facilities that fall within the subject matter of R.S.  
4           30:1126(C) and any other subject on which this Chapter and the administrative rules  
5           promulgated thereunder are silent.

6           §1124. Notice and public participation

7           A. Sixty days prior to submitting a permit application with the department,  
8           an applicant shall provide written notice by certified mail to the following parties,  
9           which shall include a description, map, and preliminary site plan of the proposed  
10          facility and contact information for the applicant:

11          (1) The governing authority of each parish in which the facility is proposed  
12          to be located.

13          (2) Each member of the Legislature of Louisiana who represents a district  
14          in which the proposed facility is to be located.

15          (3) All adjoining property owners of the proposed site of the facility.

16          B. Prior to the issuance of a permit, the department shall hold at least one  
17          public hearing in each parish in which a facility is proposed to be located.

18          (1) The applicant shall cause public notice to be published on three separate  
19          days within a period of thirty days prior to the meeting, with at least five days  
20          between each publication. This notice shall be published in the official state journal  
21          and in the official journal of any parish in which the facility is to be located. In  
22          addition, the applicant shall place an advertisement in the same newspapers, not in  
23          the classified advertisements or public notices sections, which shall be no less than  
24          one-half page in size and printed in bold face type.

25          (2) The notices required by this Subsection shall inform the public that  
26          application for a permit has been made for a new solar energy generation facility and  
27          that a public hearing will be held at which all interested persons are entitled to attend  
28          and to present their views and which shall state the date, time, and place at which the  
29          meeting will be held, the name of the applicant, the location of the proposed facility,

1 a statement that comments may be sent to the department prior to the public meeting,  
2 and the manner in which comments may be submitted.

3 C. As a prerequisite to submitting a permit application, the applicant shall  
4 provide the department with proof of the notices required by this Section.

5 §1125. Permitting

6 A. No person shall construct, install, or operate a solar power generation  
7 facility with a footprint of ten or more acres without holding a permit issued by the  
8 department pursuant to this Chapter. The following shall be required for a permit  
9 application:

10 (1) A decommissioning plan for the facility that includes plans for site  
11 closure at the end of the life of the facility, site closure in the event of a disaster  
12 making operation of the power generation facility impossible, and post-closure site  
13 restoration.

14 (a) The decommissioning plan shall be updated every three years after the  
15 initial submission. All submitted plans shall include any site restoration conditions  
16 imposed by letters of clearance pursuant to this Section.

17 (b) The decommissioning plan shall be reviewed for sufficiency by the  
18 department and must be approved by the secretary prior to the issuance of a permit.

19 (2) Financial security in the form of performance bonds, irrevocable letters  
20 of credit, cash payments, or a combination thereof, in an amount determined by the  
21 secretary to adequately mitigate the risks associated with abandonment of projects  
22 and noncompliance with applicable law, contractual agreements, and permitting that  
23 may result in environmental damage and to ensure that proper site closure,  
24 decommissioning, and restoration may be achieved by the department if necessary.

25 (a) Any bond shall be executed by the permittee and a corporate surety  
26 licensed to do business in the state. Any bond or other instrument shall be payable  
27 to the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, except the secretary may accept  
28 any financial security provided to the landowner or lessor for facilities exempted  
29 from permit fees pursuant to Subsection C of this Section.

1           (b) In determining the adequacy of the amount or other specific requirements  
2           of the financial security, the secretary shall consider the following:

3           (i) The assets, debts, and compliance history of the applicant or permittee.

4           (ii) The condition and capacity of the facilities to be covered by such  
5           security.

6           (iii) The estimated cost of site closure and remediation, including the  
7           estimated cost of removing the solar power generation facility and associated  
8           infrastructure from the property, proper disposal of all facility components, and  
9           restoring the property to as near as reasonably possible to the condition of the  
10          property prior to the commencement of construction of the facility. The estimate  
11          shall not take into account the salvage value of the facility or its associated  
12          infrastructure, components, or materials.

13          (iv) The secretary shall adjust the estimated cost based upon any updated  
14          decommissioning plan submitted pursuant to Paragraph (A)(1) of this Section. Any  
15          increase in the amount of financial security required shall be secured by the permit  
16          holder within thirty days of notification of the increase.

17          (c) If a solar power generation facility is sold or otherwise transferred, the  
18          secretary shall not release the bond or other financial security of the seller or  
19          transferor until the buyer or transferee provides a bond or other acceptable financial  
20          security in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

21          (d) The financial security required by this Paragraph shall not apply to the  
22          following solar power generation facilities which are owned by an electric utility  
23          provider regulated by the Public Service Commission or the council of the city of  
24          New Orleans:

25          (i) Facilities located on land owned by the electric utility provider and the  
26          provider is capable of demonstrating a decommissioning plan to the regulator.

27          (ii) Facilities located on land leased by the electric utility provider and that  
28          meet both of the following conditions:

1           (aa) The regulated electric utility provider guarantees to the landowner or  
2           lessor that the regulated electric utility provider will pay the cost of the  
3           decommissioning plan required by this Section and the guarantee is acceptable to the  
4           secretary.

5           (bb) The lease between the landowner or lessor and the regulated electric  
6           utility provider provides for site decommissioning at the end of the facility's life, at  
7           the termination of the lease, as determined by a court of competent jurisdiction, and  
8           upon other circumstances that require closure of the facility.

9           (3) A letter of clearance from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

10          (a) A permit applicant shall request a review of the proposed site and design  
11          plans by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The request may be made prior  
12          to submitting a permit application with the Department of Energy and Natural  
13          Resources or at the same time the permit application is submitted.

14          (b) Upon receipt of the applicant's request for review, the Department of  
15          Wildlife and Fisheries shall assess the proposed site and design plans for potential  
16          impacts on the state's natural resources and within thirty days provide an initial  
17          report of its findings to the applicant and the Department of Energy and Natural  
18          Resources. If modification of the site plans is recommended by the Department of  
19          Wildlife and Fisheries based on these findings, the applicant may work with the  
20          department to identify alternative modifications to the site plans or alternative sites  
21          acceptable to all parties.

22          (c) A letter of clearance shall only be issued if the proposed site, with or  
23          without modification, would not cause unreasonable or irreparable harm to critical  
24          or protected natural habitat or species. The secretary of the Department of Wildlife  
25          and Fisheries shall make a final determination on whether a letter of clearance may  
26          be issued for the proposed site and provide both the applicant and the Department of  
27          Energy and Natural Resources with a letter of clearance, with or without required site  
28          modifications or mitigation measures, or a denial of clearance no later than sixty  
29          days following the applicant's request for review. Any conditions imposed by the

1 secretary in a letter of clearance shall be considered conditions of that facility's  
2 permit.

3 (i) In order to effectively carry out the provisions of this Paragraph, the  
4 Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to do any of the following:

5 (ii) Designate portions of the proposed site that may not be disturbed due to  
6 the presence of protected habitat or species.

7 (iii) Utilize and consider any data available to the department to identify  
8 reported species and historical uses, which may include a five year lookback  
9 window.

10 (iv) Impose modifications to the site plan, such as requiring the use of  
11 wildlife fencing or the addition of wildlife corridors.

12 (v) Impose requirements related to restoration of the site post-closure and  
13 decommissioning.

14 (vi) Impose any other measure deemed necessary to effectively mitigate  
15 against the loss of natural resources of the state and offer assistance with identifying  
16 alternative sites with less impact on natural resources.

17 (vii) Promulgate any rules deemed necessary or useful to implement the  
18 provisions of this Paragraph.

19 (4) A letter of clearance from the Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

20 (a) A permit applicant shall request a review by the Department of  
21 Agriculture and Forestry of the proposed site and design plans. The request may be  
22 made prior to submitting a permit application with the Department of Energy and  
23 Natural Resources or at the same time the permit application is submitted.

24 (b) Upon receipt of the applicant's request for review, the department shall  
25 assess the proposed site and design plans for potential impacts on the state's  
26 agricultural resources and within thirty days provide an initial report of its findings  
27 to the applicant and the Department of Energy and Natural Resources. If  
28 modification of the site plans are recommended based on these findings, the



1 applicant may work with the department to identify alternative modifications to the  
2 site plans or alternative sites acceptable to all parties.

3 (c) A letter of clearance shall only be issued by the department if the  
4 proposed site, with or without modification, would not cause an unreasonable or  
5 unnecessary loss of agriculturally significant resources or have a detrimental impact  
6 on a particular region or industry of the state. The department shall make a final  
7 determination on whether a letter of clearance may be issued for the proposed site  
8 and provide both the applicant and the Department of Energy and Natural Resources  
9 with either a denial of clearance or a letter of clearance, with or without required site  
10 modifications and mitigation measures, no later than sixty days following the  
11 applicant's request for review. Any conditions imposed by a letter of clearance shall  
12 be considered conditions of that facility's permit.

13 (d) In order to effectively carry out the provisions of this Paragraph, the  
14 Department of Agriculture and Forestry shall be authorized to:

15 (i) Determine whether the proposed site would utilize high value agricultural  
16 lands, farmlands of local importance, or lands the conversion of which would have  
17 a detrimental impact on the economy.

18 (ii) Determine whether the proposed site is located on the least agriculturally  
19 productive portions of the proposed site and whether practicable alternatives exist  
20 or have been considered.

21 (iii) Impose modifications to the site plan to mitigate against the impact on  
22 wildlife and pollinator habitat.

23 (iv) Require sustainable land use practices, soil and water conservation  
24 practices, and agricultural impact assessments.

25 (v) Impose requirements related to restoration of the site post-closure and  
26 decommissioning.

27 (vi) Impose any other measure deemed necessary to effectively mitigate  
28 against the loss of high value agricultural lands and harm to neighboring agricultural  
29 resources.

1            (vii) Promulgate any rules deemed necessary or useful to implement the  
2            provisions of this Paragraph.

3            B. A solar power generation facility with a footprint of ten or more acres  
4            which is wholly contained within an industrial zone or a Louisiana Economic  
5            Development Certified Site shall not be subject to the letter of clearance  
6            requirements of Paragraphs (A)(3) and (4) of this Section.

7            C.(1) In addition to other requirements for the issuance of a permit, the  
8            department shall collect the following fees:

9            (a) An application fee not to exceed fifteen dollars per acre of the solar  
10           power generation facility footprint.

11           (b) An application processing fee not to exceed five hundred dollars for the  
12           entire project.

13           (c) An annual monitoring and maintenance fee beginning the year after  
14           issuance of the permit and every year thereafter not to exceed fifteen dollars per acre  
15           of the facility footprint.

16           (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Paragraph, no applicant or permit  
17           holder shall be charged a fee that exceeds the department's budgeted costs of  
18           implementing and administering the provisions of this Section for the fiscal year in  
19           which the fee is charged.

20           (2) Any solar power generation facility that was certified by the Public  
21           Service Commission or the council of the city of New Orleans on or before August  
22           2, 2022, shall be exempt from the fees provided for in this Section, but shall register  
23           with the department and shall comply with the requirements of this Chapter and any  
24           rules promulgated pursuant to this Chapter.

25           (3) All of the monies collected from the fees provided for in this Subsection  
26           shall be deposited in the Mineral and Energy Operation Fund.

27           D. Certification of compliance with all applicable local laws. The applicant  
28           shall certify in writing and prepare a report for the department that details each local  
29           law applicable to the facility and how the facility has or plans to comply with each.

1 This report shall be submitted to the department and to the local governing authority  
2 or authorities where the facility is to be located and the department shall obtain  
3 verification of the assertions in the report, to the extent possible, with each such  
4 governing authority.

5 E. The secretary shall require any solar power generation facilities  
6 constructed, installed, or operating prior to August 1, 2025, to come into compliance  
7 with the provisions of this Section by August 1, 2027.

8 §1126. Facility siting

9 A. Any solar power generation facility with a footprint of ten acres or more  
10 which is not located wholly within an industrial-zoned area or a Louisiana Economic  
11 Development Certified Site shall comply with the standards set forth in this  
12 Subsection.

13 (1) There shall be a buffer around the perimeter of each facility that includes  
14 setbacks and a vegetative barrier to screen the facility from view. The vegetative  
15 barrier shall be comprised of native vegetation, shall include a sufficient amount of  
16 evergreen trees to ensure a visual barrier year round, and shall be designed to conceal  
17 the development from view from adjoining properties.

18 (a) For nonparticipating residential property, one of the following shall be  
19 used:

20 (i) A one mile setback from the residential property line to the nearest solar  
21 device and a one hundred foot deep vegetative barrier.

22 (ii) Alternatively, the owner of residential property to which the setback  
23 would apply and the facility operator may agree in writing to use the following  
24 compensation model instead of the setback. If the setback to be removed would  
25 apply to more than one residential property, all adjoining residential property owners  
26 must agree to use this model instead of the setback. Use of the compensation model  
27 pursuant to this Subparagraph would remove the requirement for the setback only;  
28 the one hundred foot vegetative barrier would still be applicable.

1            (aa) The amount of compensation due to the property owner shall be an  
2            amount no less than the value of the residential property multiplied by a distance  
3            factor.

4            (bb) The residential property value shall be provided by a licensed appraiser  
5            and obtained at the expense of the facility.

6            (cc) The distance factor shall be based on the following table, using the  
7            distance from the property line to the nearest solar device:

Distance from property line to nearest solar device	Distance factor
Less than or equal to 0.1 miles	0.077
More than 0.1 and less than or equal to 0.2 miles	0.060
More than 0.2 and less than or equal to 0.3 miles	0.047
More than 0.3 and less than or equal to 0.4 miles	0.037
More than 0.4 and less than or equal to 0.5 miles	0.029
More than 0.5 and less than or equal to 0.6 miles	0.023
More than 0.6 and less than or equal to 0.7 miles	0.018
More than 0.7 and less than or equal to 0.8 miles	0.014
More than 0.8 and less than or equal to 0.9 miles	0.011
More than 0.9 and less than or equal to 1 miles	0.009

19            (b) For nonresidential adjacent property and public roads, one of the  
20            following buffers shall be used:

21            (i) A two hundred foot setback from the property line or the center of the  
22            roadway to the nearest solar device with a fifty foot deep vegetative barrier.

23            (ii) Alternatively, the facility may opt to use a one hundred foot vegetative  
24            barrier without any setback.

25            (c) For natural and navigable water bodies, a five hundred foot setback from  
26            the ordinary high water mark to the nearest solar device and a two hundred foot deep  
27            vegetative barrier are required.

28            (d) For drainage canals and ditches, a fifty foot setback from the center of  
29            the bank with no vegetation.

1           (2) Noise levels at the property line of the facility shall not exceed the  
2           ambient A-weighted decibels (dbA) present at the property line prior to operation of  
3           the facility and in no event greater than 45 dbA.

4           B. A parish governing authority may obtain a waiver from the buffer  
5           requirements of Subsection A of this Section as it applies to an individual facility  
6           within their parish if, after all adjoining property owners and the facility have agreed  
7           in writing to the proposed waiver, the governing authority presents the facts and  
8           circumstances before a joint meeting of the House and Senate natural resources  
9           committees and obtains approval from each committee. If the facility is located in  
10           more than one parish, each parish may only obtain a waiver for the siting  
11           requirements in their own parish, rather than obtaining a waiver applicable to the  
12           whole facility. Any parish seeking a waiver pursuant to this Subsection shall provide  
13           written notice of the legislative meeting to members of the legislature in whose  
14           district the facility is located and all adjoining property owners and residents.

15           C.(1) Activities related to site preparation and construction; drainage, runoff,  
16           and erosion control; the composition and maintenance of the vegetative barrier  
17           required pursuant to this Section or other more stringent local law; facility lighting,  
18           signage, maintenance, and general upkeep may be regulated by a parish governing  
19           authority.

20           (2) In the absence of parish regulations provided for in Paragraph (1) of this  
21           Subsection, any facility with a footprint of ten acres or more which is not located  
22           wholly within an industrial-zoned area or a Louisiana Economic Development  
23           Certified Site shall submit the following plans to the parish governing authority  
24           where the proposed site is to be located and obtain the approval of the governing  
25           authority before construction can begin. The parish governing authority may  
26           delegate approval of any of the plans required by this Paragraph to an appropriate  
27           subdivision of local government in accordance with parish ordinances. The parish  
28           governing authority shall vote on the approval of these plans at a regularly scheduled

1 public meeting and thereafter provide the department with notice of the parish's  
2 decision.

3 (a) Plans for site preparation, including any grading or leveling, erosion  
4 control, and sediment runoff.

5 (b) Drainage and storm water runoff plans.

6 (c) Landscaping plans for the vegetative barrier required pursuant to  
7 Subsection A of this Section.

8 (d) Site maintenance plans.

9 D. The secretary shall require any solar power generation facilities  
10 constructed, installed, or operating prior to August 1, 2025, to come into compliance  
11 with the provisions of this Section by August 1, 2027.

12 §1127. Prohibitions

13 The following activities related to solar energy development are prohibited  
14 in this state:

15 (1) The use of chemical spraying for maintenance of solar power generation  
16 facility sites is prohibited unless a specific plan for such use is approved by both the  
17 commissioner of agriculture and forestry and the governing authority for any parish  
18 in which the site is located.

19 (2) The use of concentrating solar-thermal power technologies that use  
20 lenses or mirrors to concentrate large amounts of sunlight into thermal energy are  
21 prohibited in the state.

22 (3) The purchase, lease, or other contractual agreement authorizing the use  
23 of agricultural lands for solar development by foreign adversaries or prohibited  
24 foreign actors. This prohibition shall be governed by the provisions of R.S. 3:3613  
25 et seq.

26 PART I. RENEWABLE ENERGY STORAGE

27 §1141. Battery and electrical storage devices

28 A. No battery or other electrical storage device shall be constructed,  
29 installed, or operated in Louisiana without a permit from the department.

1           B. No permit for energy storage may be issued without proof of financial  
2           security and a decommissioning plan approved by the department.

3           C. The secretary is authorized to promulgate any rules deemed necessary or  
4           useful for the implementation of this Part.

5           Section 3. Chapter 12-A of Subtitle I of Title 30 of the Revised Statutes of 1950,  
6           comprised of R.S. 30:1151 through 1159 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

#### 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 615 Original

2025 Regular Session

Geymann

**Abstract:** Establishes permitting and siting requirements for solar power generation facilities with a footprint of 10 acres or more.

Proposed law provides definitions.

Proposed law provides for the jurisdiction and authority of the Dept. of Energy and Natural Resources over the regulation of solar power generation facilities and requires the promulgation of rules to implement proposed law.

Proposed law authorizes parish governing authorities to enact and enforce regulations more strict than the permitting and siting requirements in proposed law and provides that facilities must comply with all general regulations of parishes.

Proposed law requires notice to parish governments, legislators, and adjoining property owners prior to the submission of a permit application.

Proposed law requires a public meeting prior to the issuance of a permit and requires the applicant to provide public notice regarding the meeting.

Proposed law requires a permit from the Dept. of Energy and Natural Resources to operate a solar power generation facility with a footprint of 10 acres or more. Permit application requirements include:

- (1) Proof of compliance with notice requirements.
- (2) A decommissioning plan.
- (3) Financial security approved by the secretary.
- (4) A letter of clearance from the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries.
- (5) A letter of clearance from the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry.
- (6) Certification of compliance with applicable local laws.

Proposed law exempts facilities located in industrial zoned areas and on La. Economic Development certified sites from obtaining the letters of clearance from the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry.

Present law establishes fees for solar permit applicants and exceptions to these fee requirements.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law establishes siting requirements for facilities over 10 acres that are not on certified sites or in industrial zones, including setbacks and vegetative barriers applicable to adjoining properties, roadways, and waterways.

Proposed law allows residential property owners and facilities to agree to use a compensation model provided by proposed law instead of complying with the setback requirement.

Proposed law provides a limit for noise levels at the property line of the facility.

Proposed law provides a process for parishes to obtain a waiver from siting requirements from the House and Senate natural resources committees.

Proposed law specifically authorizes local government to regulate the following:

- (1) Site preparation and construction.
- (2) Drainage, runoff, and erosion control.
- (3) Composition and maintenance of vegetative barriers.
- (4) Facility lighting, signage, maintenance, and general upkeep.

Proposed law provides a default process in the absence of local regulation of these topics, requiring the facility to obtain approval from the appropriate parish governing authority for the following:

- (1) Plans for site preparation, including any grading or leveling, erosion control, and sediment runoff.
- (2) Drainage and storm water runoff plans.
- (3) Landscaping plans for the vegetative barrier.
- (4) Site maintenance plans.

Proposed law prohibits the following:

- (1) Chemical spraying to maintain facility sites, unless approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture and the appropriate parish governing authority.
- (2) Concentrating solar-thermal power technologies.
- (3) The purchase or use of property for solar energy development by foreign adversaries.

Proposed law requires pre-existing solar facilities to come into compliance with proposed law by August 1, 2027.



Proposed law requires a permit, financial security, and a decommissioning plan for the use of battery of other electrical storage for renewable energy and authorizes the Dept. of Energy and Natural Resources to promulgate rules for same.

Present law establishes a program within the Department of Energy and Natural Resources for research and development in solar energy and the technology of siting facilities, including participation in large-scale demonstrations of alternative energy systems and improving methods for the construction, design, and operation of solar facilities.

Proposed law repeals present law.

(Amends R.S. 9:1255(B) and (C); Adds R.S. 30:1121-1127 and R.S. 30:1141; Repeals R.S. 30:1151-1159)