

2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 127

BY SENATOR BASS

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

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL. Provides relative to permitting for advanced nuclear power generation. (8/1/25)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 30:2014.5, relative to permitting of advanced nuclear power
3 generation; to provide for development of a permitting program; to provide for
4 expedited processing of environmental permits; to provide for compliance; and to
5 provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 30:2014.5 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §2014.5. Expedited permitting program

9 A. The secretary is authorized to develop and implement a program to
10 expedite the processing of permits, modifications, licenses, registrations, or variances
11 for environmental permit applicants who may request such services and the secretary
12 shall adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act which shall
13 include a notice that indicates such permit is an expedited permit.

14 **B.(1) The secretary is authorized to develop and implement a federal**
15 **permitting parity program for nuclear power generation to expedite the**
16 **processing of permits, modifications, registrations, or variances for**
17 **environmental permit applications submitted by an electric public utility as**

1 defined in R.S. 45:121. In addition to an application for an expedited permit, the
 2 electric public utility shall submit to the secretary the following:

3 (a) That the purpose of the application is the development and
 4 construction of a small modular reactor.

5 (b) That the application is submitted by an electric public utility that
 6 states the application is consistent in all material respects with the elements
 7 identified in a letter of collaboration that has been entered into between the
 8 electric public utility and the president of the United States, the United States
 9 Department of Defense, the United States Department of Energy, the United
 10 States Department of Agriculture, the United States Department of State, the
 11 United States Department of the Interior, the United States Environmental
 12 Protection Agency, or the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission; the
 13 letter of collaboration shall be on file with the department.

14 (2) The secretary shall adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative
 15 Procedure Act which shall include a notice that indicates such permit is issued
 16 pursuant to the federal permitting parity program for nuclear power
 17 generation.

18 (3) For purposes of this Section, "electric public utility" shall include the
 19 definition provided in R.S. 45:121, in addition to any provider, operator, owner,
 20 generator, developer, designer, or customer of a small modular reactor.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

Present law authorizes the secretary of DEQ to implement a program to expedite processing of permits, modifications, registrations, or variances for environmental permit applicants.

Proposed law retains present law and authorizes the secretary to institute a federal permitting parity program for advanced nuclear power generation applications submitted by electric public utilities.

Proposed law provides that the utility submit that the application is for development and construction of a small modular reactor and is consistent with a letter of collaboration

entered into between the applicant and the federal government.

Proposed law requires the secretary to adopt rules under the Administrative Procedure Act which provide notice that the permit is issued under the permitting parity program.

Proposed law provides that "electric public utility" means the same as in R.S. 45:121, as well as a provider, operator, owner, generator, developer, designer, or customer of a small modular reactor.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 30:2014.5)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Environmental Quality to the original bill

1. Adds that "electric public utility" means the same as provided in R.S. 45:121, as well as a provider, operator, owner, generator, developer, designer, or customer of a small modular reactor.