
DIGEST

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HB 783 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Coates

Abstract: Provides for the regulation and sale of certain dairy and non-lactational dairy products.

Present law (R.S. 3:4102(1)) defines "milk" as the lacteal secretion from one or more cows, including milk that is raw, cooled, pasteurized, standardized, homogenized, recombined, or concentrated, and that meets the requirements of the state health officer.

Proposed law modifies present law by clarifying that "milk" is the lacteal secretion that is practically free from colostrum and is obtained by the complete milking of one or more healthy cows. Further requires that "milk" be interpreted to include the milk of goats, sheep, water buffalo, camels, and other hoofed animals.

Present law (R.S. 3:4102(10)(b)) defines "dairy product" to include any product that contains milk solids not fat, butterfat, or a milk derivative, and that is manufactured to resemble a dairy product listed in the preceding subparagraph. Clarifies that the term "dairy product" does not include butter; cheese (except cottage cheese or Creole cream cheese); nonfat dry milk; skim condensed milk; whole condensed milk; or sweetened condensed milk.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that non-lactational dairy protein products are not considered "milk".

Present law (R.S. 3:4102) provides for definitions under the Dairy Stabilization Law.

Proposed law retains present law and adds a definition of "non-lactational dairy protein product" to mean a food product not containing dairy-identical or dairy-derived proteins produced through microbial fermentation or other manufacturing processes and not derived from the natural lactation of a mammal.

Present law (R.S. 3:4109) provides licensing requirements for processors.

Proposed law retains present law but adds a prohibition for any licensed processor, distributor, supplier, or retailer to manufacture, process, package, store, or distribute a non-lactational dairy protein product.

Present law (R.S. 38:2251.1) provides for the preference of milk and dairy products produced or processed in the state over out-of-state products for state and local government purchases, provided that the in-state products are of equal quality and reasonably priced.

Present law (R.S. 40:881(A)) requires the La. Dept. of Health to enforce the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's standard of identity for milk (21 CFR 131.110), the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance, and the provisions of present law to prohibit the sale of plant-based products that are mislabeled as milk.

Proposed law modifies present law by also prohibiting the sale of non-lactational dairy protein products that are mislabeled as milk. Proposed law further requires that any non-lactational dairy protein product offered for sale bear a clear and conspicuous disclosure statement that complies with the required formatting of proposed law.

Proposed law provides for a contingency effective date, and an emergency effective date.

(Amends R.S. 3:4102(1) and (10)(b) and R.S. 40:881(A) and (B); Adds R.S. 3:4102(19) and 4109(H))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Remove provisions that prohibit state agencies from purchasing or serving any non-lactational dairy protein product.
2. Changes font size of disclosures required by proposed law.
3. Provides for an effective date.