

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE BILL NO. 48

BY REPRESENTATIVE ANDERS AND SENATOR THOMPSON

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 3:3553(B) and 3556, relative to the assessment on grain
3 sorghum; to authorize the application for and receipt of national assessment funds;
4 to suspend the state assessment; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 3:3553(B) and 3556 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
7 follows:

8 §3553. Levy of assessment; referendum; collection; enforcement; refund

9 * * *

10 B.(1) There is imposed and levied an assessment at the rate of one-half cent
11 per bushel on all wheat, corn, and grain sorghum grown within the state. However,
12 the assessment shall not be imposed unless and until the question of its imposition
13 has been submitted to and has been approved by at least a majority of the wheat,
14 corn, and grain sorghum producers who vote in a referendum to be called and held
15 by the board. The wheat, corn, and grain sorghum producers of the state shall be
16 notified of the results of the referendum. The assessment imposed by this Subsection
17 shall be effective for a period of five crop years. This assessment may be extended
18 for an indefinite period of time, in increments of five years, by ratification and
19 approval of a majority of the producers of the commodities subject to the assessment
20 who vote in referenda to be called and held by the board in the manner set forth in
21 this Part. In order to be able to vote in the referenda, the prospective voter must have
22 produced at least one of the commodities subject to the assessment in the year
23 preceding the year in which the referendum is held or in the year in which the
24 referendum is held. Producers voting in referenda shall vote only in the parish in
25 which the voter resides.

1 (2) No assessment for grain sorghum shall be imposed and levied in
 2 accordance with this Subsection while a national assessment for grain sorghum
 3 established pursuant to 7 CFR 1221 remains in effect. The assessment on grain
 4 sorghum shall be imposed and levied in accordance with this Subsection upon the
 5 suspension or termination of the national assessment for grain sorghum established
 6 pursuant to 7 CFR 1221.

* * *

§3556. Use of funds

9 A. The Louisiana Soybean and Grain Research and Promotion Board shall
 10 plan and conduct a program of research and advertising designed to promote the
 11 soybean, wheat, corn, and grain sorghum industries in Louisiana. The board is
 12 authorized to use the funds derived from any assessment imposed by this Part for
 13 these purposes, including basic administration expenses of the plan. Use of these
 14 funds may be applied, as prescribed in this Section, within or without the state of
 15 Louisiana, including regional, national, and international applications. The funds
 16 may also be used to defray costs of referenda.

17 B. The board is authorized to apply for and receive monies from the national
 18 assessment for grain sorghum pursuant to 7 CFR 1221.

19 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2010; if vetoed by the governor
 20 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,
 21 2010, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____