

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE BILL NO. 840

BY REPRESENTATIVES SIMON, BOBBY BADON, BURFORD, HENRY BURNS,
CHANEY, GUINN, HOWARD, LEBAS, LITTLE, PERRY, RITCHIE, ROY, AND
THIBAUT

AGRICULTURE: Establishes the La. Sustainable Local Food Policy Council

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Chapter 3-E of Title 3 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised
3 of R.S. 3:299, and R.S. 36:629(M) and 919.10, relative to the Louisiana Sustainable
4 Local Food Policy Council; to provide for the council membership, duties and
5 responsibilities, vacancies, and compensation; to provide for termination; and to
6 provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Chapter 3-E of Title 3 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
9 comprised of R.S. 3:299, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 CHAPTER 3-E. LOUISIANA SUSTAINABLE LOCAL FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

11 §299. Louisiana Sustainable Local Food Policy Council; creation; purpose; duties
12 and responsibilities; membership; vacancies; compensation; termination.

13 A. There is hereby created the Louisiana Sustainable Local Food Policy
14 Council, referred to in this Chapter as the "council", within the Department of
15 Agriculture and Forestry, for the purpose of building a local food economy
16 benefitting Louisiana by creating jobs, stimulating statewide economic development,
17 preservation of farmlands and water resources, increasing consumer access to fresh
18 and nutritious foods, and providing greater food security for all Louisianians.

- 1 B. The membership of the council shall be as follows:
- 2 (1) The commissioner of agriculture and forestry or his designee.
- 3 (2) A member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of
4 the House of Representatives.
- 5 (3) A member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate.
- 6 (4) The state superintendent of education or his designee.
- 7 (5) The secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals or his designee.
- 8 (6) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development or his
9 designee.
- 10 (7) The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries or his
11 designee.
- 12 (8) The president of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, Inc., or his
13 designee.
- 14 (9) Three local food producers, at least one of whom shall be a sustainable
15 local food producer, to be appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.
- 16 (10) One representative of a food bank located in Louisiana to be appointed
17 by the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.
- 18 (11) One representative of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center
19 appointed by the chancellor of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center.
- 20 (12) One representative of the Southern University Agricultural Center
21 appointed by the chancellor of the Southern University Agricultural Center.
- 22 (13) One representative of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service
23 appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.
- 24 (14) One registered dietician appointed by the Louisiana Dietetics
25 Association.
- 26 (15) One representative of a business specializing in retail or direct food
27 sales appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.

1 (16) One representative of a farmers market management organization
2 appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.

3 (17) The director of the Prevention Research Center at Tulane University or
4 his designee.

5 (18) One representative of a financial institution providing financing to local
6 food producers appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.

7 (19) One commercial fisherman appointed by the commissioner of
8 agriculture and forestry.

9 C. The commissioner shall appoint the chair of the council, and all other
10 officers, if any, shall be elected by the membership of the council. The
11 commissioner shall convene the council for its first meeting no later than December
12 1, 2010. Support staff for the task force shall be provided by the departments and
13 agencies of the executive branch, as requested by the chair of the council. The
14 council shall meet at regularly scheduled intervals, not less than quarterly, and at the
15 call of the chair thereafter.

16 D. Members of the council shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing
17 authority. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

18 E. Council members shall not receive additional compensation or a per diem
19 from the office of the commissioner for serving on the council; however, legislative
20 members of the council shall receive the same per diem and travel allowance as is
21 normally provided for meetings of legislative committees, payable out of funds
22 appropriated for expenses of the legislature.

23 F. In developing sustainable local food policies for Louisiana, the council
24 may consider the following policy issues:

25 (1) An assessment of the foods that are served to public school students
26 under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast program and the
27 possibility of increasing the amount of sustainable local food used in these programs.

1 (2) An analysis of the possibility of making sustainable local food available
2 under public assistance programs, including the possibility of food stamp use at local
3 farmers markets.

4 (3) An analysis of the potential of promoting urban gardens and backyard
5 gardens for the purpose of improving the health of citizens, making use of idle urban
6 property, and lowering food costs for Louisianians.

7 (4) An evaluation of the potential impacts that the production of sustainable
8 local food would have on economic development, both the direct impacts for the
9 producers of sustainable local food and the actual and potential indirect impacts.

10 (5) Identification of local and regional efforts that could provide information
11 and training programs to assist entrepreneurs and local farmers pursuing
12 opportunities related to a sustainable local food economy.

13 (6) Issues regarding the identification and development of solutions to
14 regulatory and policy barriers to developing a strong sustainable local food economy.

15 (7) Issues regarding strengthening local infrastructure and entrepreneurial
16 efforts related to a sustainable local food economy.

17 (8) Consider any other strategies, initiatives, or policy issues that the council
18 deems necessary in carrying out its duties and responsibilities pursuant to this
19 Chapter.

20 G. The council may seek and accept gifts, grants, and donations from public
21 and private entities to use for the purpose of this Chapter.

22 H. The council may use existing programs that it determines to be useful in
23 performing its duties under this Chapter.

24 I. No later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2012 Regular Session
25 of the Legislature of Louisiana, the council shall report its findings and
26 recommendations, including any legislative proposals or proposals for administrative
27 action, to the legislature and the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.

28 J. This council shall be null and void and terminate on June 30, 2012.

1 Section 2. R.S. 36:629(M) and 919.10 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

2 §629. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to the
3 Department of Agriculture and Forestry

4 * * *

5 M. The Louisiana Sustainable Local Food Policy Council (R.S. 3:299)
6 hereafter shall be within the Department of Agriculture and Forestry as provided in
7 R.S. 36:919.10.

8 * * *

9 §919.10. Transfer; Louisiana Sustainable Local Food Policy Council

10 The Louisiana Sustainable Local Food Policy Council is placed within the
11 Department of Agriculture and Forestry and shall exercise its powers, duties,
12 functions, and responsibilities as provided in this Part. In addition the council may
13 solicit, receive, and expend funds as authorized by law.

14 Section 3. The commissioner of agriculture and forestry, the speaker of the House
15 of Representatives, the president of the Senate, and all other appointing authorities shall
16 appoint members of the Louisiana Sustainable Local Food Policy Council not later than
17 October 1, 2010.

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)]

Simon HB No. 840

Abstract: Establishes the La. Sustainable Local Food Policy Council and provides for its duties, responsibilities, membership, vacancies, compensation, and termination.

Proposed law establishes the La. Sustainable Local Food Policy Council within the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry for the purpose of building a sustainable local food economy that will create jobs, stimulate economic development, protect the environment and preserve open spaces, increase consumer access to fresh and nutritious foods, and provide greater food security.

Proposed law provides for the membership of the council as follows:

- (1) The commissioner of agriculture and forestry or his designee.
- (2) A member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker.

- (3) A member of the Senate appointed by the senate president
- (4) The state superintendent of education or his designee.
- (5) The secretary of DHH or his designee.
- (6) The secretary of DED or his designee.
- (7) The secretary of DWF or his designee.
- (8) The president of the La. Farm Bureau Federation, Inc., or his designee.
- (9) Three local food producers, at least one of whom shall be a sustainable local food producer, appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.
- (10) One representative of a food bank located in La. appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.
- (11) One representative of the LSU AgCenter appointed by the chancellor of the LSU AgCenter.
- (12) One representative of the SU AgCenter appointed by the chancellor of the SU AgCenter.
- (13) One representative of the La. Cooperative Extension Service appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.
- (14) One registered dietician appointed by La. Dietetics Association.
- (15) One representative of a business specializing in retail or direct food sales appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.
- (16) One representative of a farmers market management organization appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.
- (17) The director of the Prevention Research Center at Tulane University or his designee.
- (18) One representative of a financial institution providing financing to local food producers appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.
- (19) One commercial fisherman appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.

Proposed law provides that the chair be appointed by the commissioner, and any other officers be elected by the council membership. Further provides that the commissioner shall call the first meeting of the task force no later than Dec. 1, 2010.

Proposed law provides that the members of the council shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authorities, and vacancies shall be filled in the manner of the original appointment.

Proposed law provides that in developing sustainable local food policies, the council may consider the following issues:

- (1) An assessment of the foods served to public school students under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program, including the possibility of increasing the amount of sustainable local food used in these programs.

- (2) An analysis of the possibility of making sustainable local food available under public assistance programs, including the possibility of food stamp use at local farmers markets.
- (3) An analysis of the potential of promoting urban and backyard gardens for the purpose of improving the health of citizens, making use of idle urban property, and lowering food costs.
- (4) An evaluation of the potential impacts that the production of sustainable local food would have on economic development, both direct and indirect impacts.
- (5) Identification of local and regional efforts that could provide training programs to assist entrepreneurs and local farmers pursuing opportunities related to a sustainable local food economy.
- (6) Issues regarding the identification and development of solutions to regulatory and policy barriers to developing a strong sustainable local food economy.
- (7) Issues regarding strengthening local infrastructure and entrepreneurial efforts related to a sustainable local food economy.
- (8) Consider other strategies, initiatives, or policy issues that the council deems necessary in carrying out its duties.

Proposed law provides for the council to report its findings, recommendations, or proposals to the legislature and the commissioner of agriculture and forestry no later than 60 days prior to the convening of the 2012 R.S.

Proposed law provides for placement of the council within the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry and allows the council to solicit, receive, and expend funds as authorized.

Proposed law provides for the termination of the task force on June 30, 2012.

(Adds R.S. 3:299 and R.S. 36:629(M) and 919.10)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development to the original bill.

1. Added four members to the membership of the council.
2. Provided for council meetings to be held quarterly at a minimum.
3. Placed the council within the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry.
4. Made technical amendments.