

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 AND SENATORS LONG, RISER, SMITH, THOMPSON, AND
WALSWORTH

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 (20) One representative of the Louisiana Meat Processors Association
10 appointed by the president of the association.

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

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

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

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

27 (1) An assessment of the foods that are served to public school students
28 under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast program and the
29 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) Any other strategies, initiatives, or policy issues that the council deems
 18 necessary in carrying out its duties and responsibilities pursuant to this Chapter.

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

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

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

27 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.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____