

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 901

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER

BOARDS/COMMISSIONS: Authorizes certain governmental entities to install solar energy farms on their property

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 2:604(5), R.S. 15:805(3), R.S. 17:6(A)(6), and R.S. 36:256(B),  
3 relative to authorizing boards and commissions to install solar panels on their  
4 property; to provide authorization to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
5 Education to place solar panels in, on, or around any available property under their  
6 control; to provide authorization to the undersecretary of the Department of Health  
7 and Hospitals to place solar panels in, on, or around any available property under  
8 their control; to provide airport authorities to place solar panels in, on, or around any  
9 available property under their control; to provide authorization to the Board of  
10 Governors for the state prison system to place solar panels in, on, or around any  
11 available property under their control; and to provide for related matters.

12 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

13 Section 1. R.S. 2:604(5) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

14 §604. General powers of the authority

15 An authority shall have all the powers necessary or convenient to carry out  
16 the purposes of this Chapter (excluding the power to levy and collect taxes or special  
17 assessments) including but not limited to, the following powers:

18 \* \* \*

19 (5)(a) To establish or acquire and maintain airports in, over, and upon any  
20 public waters of this state, any submerged lands under such public water; and to

1 construct and maintain terminal buildings, landing floats, causeways, roadways, and  
2 bridges for approaches to or connecting with any such airport, and landing floats and  
3 breakwaters for the protection thereof;

4 (b) To establish or acquire and maintain solar farms in, on, and around any  
5 available property under the jurisdiction of the authority; to coordinate with the  
6 secretary of the Department of Natural Resources in development and coordination  
7 of the solar farms; to facilitate the installation of solar panels as set forth in R.S  
8 37:2156.3; and to facilitate the installation of solar panels before the federal and state  
9 tax credits sunset.

10 \* \* \*

11 Section 2. R.S. 15:805(3) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

12 §805. Powers and duties of board of governors

13 The board of governors:

14 \* \* \*

15 (3)(a) May acquire land by donation, purchase, or lease for multiparish  
16 prison farms. All purchases of real estate shall be ratified by a majority of the  
17 governing authorities of the parishes within the multiparish prison area on the basis  
18 of their assessed valuation. Whenever the purchase price is on terms of credit the  
19 land shall be the only security and the parishes involved shall not be liable for any  
20 part of the unpaid purchase price. The board of governors may remove any buildings  
21 or improvements on land acquired by them.

22 (b) May establish or acquire and maintain solar farms in, on, and around any  
23 available property under the jurisdiction of the board; to coordinate with the  
24 secretary of the Department of Natural Resources in development and coordination  
25 of the solar farms; to facilitate the installation of solar panels as set forth in R.S  
26 37:2156.3; and to facilitate the installation of solar panels before the federal and state  
27 tax credits sunset.

28 \* \* \*

29 Section 3. R.S. 17:6(A)(6) is hereby amended and reenacted as follows:

1 §6. General powers of board

2 A. In the exercise of its supervision and control over the public elementary  
3 and secondary schools and special schools under its jurisdiction, and in the exercise  
4 of its budgetary responsibility for all funds appropriated or allocated by the state for  
5 public elementary and secondary schools and special schools placed under its  
6 jurisdiction, the board shall have authority to:

7 \* \* \*

8 (6)(a) Lease land or other property belonging to it or to any special school  
9 under its jurisdiction, subject to approval of the commissioner of administration and  
10 in accordance with law.

11 (b) Establish and maintain solar farms in, on, and around any available  
12 property under its jurisdiction, subject to approval of the commissioner of  
13 administration in accordance with law; to coordinate with the secretary of the  
14 Department of Natural Resources in development and coordination of the solar  
15 farms; to require the installation of solar panels as set forth in R.S. 37:2156.3; and  
16 to require that the solar panels are installed before the federal and state tax credits  
17 sunset.

18 \* \* \*

19 Section 4. R.S. 36:256(B) is hereby amended and reenacted as follows:

20 §256. Undersecretary; functions; office of management and finance

21 \* \* \*

22 B.(1) The undersecretary shall direct and be responsible for the functions of  
23 the office of management and finance within the Department of Health and  
24 Hospitals. In such capacity, he shall be responsible for accounting and budget  
25 control, procurement and contract management, data processing, personnel  
26 management, and facility construction and consulting services, for the department  
27 and all of its offices, including all agencies transferred to the Department of Health  
28 and Hospitals, except as otherwise provided in this Title. He shall employ, appoint,  
29 remove, assign, and promote such personnel as is necessary for the efficient

1 administration of the office of management and finance and the performance of its  
2 powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities, in accordance with applicable civil  
3 service laws, rules, and regulations, and with policies and rules of the department,  
4 all subject to budgetary control and applicable laws. The undersecretary shall  
5 exercise all powers and authority granted to him in this Title subject to the overall  
6 direction and control of the secretary.

7 (2) The undersecretary may establish or acquire and maintain solar farms in,  
8 on, and around any available property under the jurisdiction of the department; shall  
9 coordinate with the secretary of the Department of Natural Resources in  
10 development and coordination of the solar farms; to facilitate the installation of solar  
11 panels as set forth in R.S 37:2156.3; and to facilitate the installation of solar panels  
12 before the federal and state tax credits sunset.

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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)]

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HB 901 Original

2016 Regular Session

Hunter

**Abstract:** Authorizes the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the undersecretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, airport authorities throughout the state, and the Board of Governors for the state prison systems to install solar energy farms on their property.

Proposed law authorizes the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the undersecretary of the Dept. of Health and Hospitals, airport authorities, to each establish or acquire and maintain solar farms in, on, and around any available property under their jurisdiction, to coordinate the development of solar farms; to facilitate the installation of solar panels in compliance with statutory installation requirements; and to facilitate the installation of solar panels before the federal and state tax credits sunset.

(Amends R.S. 2:604(5), 15:805(3), 17:6(A)(6), and 36:256(B))