NOTICE OF INTENT
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry
Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Honey Bees, Apiaries and Fire ant Regulations
(LAC 7:XXIX.501-519; 701-725)

In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950, *et seq.*, notice is hereby given that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry ("Department") intends to amend LAC 7:XV.501-519 regarding honey bees and apiaries. The proposed rule also seeks to repeal in its entirety LAC:XV.701-725 regarding fire ants. The rules regarding honey bees and apiaries have not been amended since they were promulgated in 1985. It is the intent of these amendments to make the rules easier to read and to remove redundancies and strike language that is restated from La. R.S. 3:2301-2311.

Title 7
AGRICULTURE AND ANIMALS
Part XV. Plant Protection and Quarantines
Chapter 5. Honey Bees and Apiaries
(Formerly LAC 7:XXI.Chapter 25)

§501. Definitions
(Formerly LAC 7:XXI.2501)

A. For purposes of this chapter, the following terms shall have the meaning hereafter ascribed to them, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

Agent—an authorized representative of the state entomologist and/or the Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

Apiary or *Yard*—the assembly of one or more colonies of bees at a single location.

Apiary law and regulation—the provisions in Title 3 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes regulating apiaries and the regulations promulgated in Title 7 of the Louisiana Administrative Code regulating apiaries.

Beekeeper—an individual, firm or corporation, who owns or has under his control one or more colonies of bees.

Certificate of Inspection—a document issued after authorized personnel have inspected bees or regulated articles prior to, and for the purpose of, the movement of such bees or regulated articles.

Colony or *Hive*—an aggregate of bees consisting principally of workers, but having, when perfect, one queen and at times many drones; including brood, combs, honey, and the receptacles inhabited by the bees.

Combless Package—a package of bees shipped or moved without comb, with or without a queen.

Comb Package—a package of bees shipped or moved on a comb containing honey and/or brood, with or without a queen.

Commissioner—the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.

Department—the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

Disease or *Pest*—any infectious condition of bees which is detrimental to the honey bee industry, including, but not limited to, American foulbrood.

Frame—a wooden or plastic case for holding honeycomb.

Infested—the presence of any disease or pest of bees.

Nucleus—bees, brood, combs and honey in or inhabiting a small hive or portion of a standard hive or other dwelling place.

Permit—a registration certificate issued by the department to a beekeeper upon registration in accordance with the apiary laws and regulations.

Person—an individual, firm, corporation or other legal entity.

Quarantine—an official act of the state entomologist which prohibits or limits movement of bees or regulated articles when necessary to control, eradicate or prevent the introduction, spread or dissemination of any and all diseases of bees and all other pests of bees. A quarantine is local when it covers specific apiaries, colonies, bees or regulated articles, or another specific location. A quarantine is geographic when it covers a general area.

Quarantine Area—any area of the state designated by the state entomologist as having regulated articles which are or may be infected by a disease and/or infested with a pest, which presents a danger to other colonies of bees.

Queen—a fully developed female bee, capable of being fertilized.

Regulated Areas—geographical areas outside of the state of Louisiana which have been designated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry or local governmental officials as infested states or counties. Any state or county which fails to conduct annual inspections in accordance with inspection standards adopted by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry shall be presumed to be a regulated area.

Regulated Articles—colonies of bees, nuclei, comb or combless packages of bees, queens, used or second-hand beekeeping fixtures or equipment, and anything that has been used in operating an apiary.

State Entomologist—the entomologist of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

Super—a standard frame hive body (all depths).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:2302 and R.S. 3:2303.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture, LR 11:517 (May 1985), repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:928 (May 2014), LR 41

§503. Restrictions on Movement of Bees or Regulated Articles Into Louisiana (Formerly LAC 7:XXI.2511)

A. Movement of bees or regulated articles from regulated areas into Louisiana may require prior written authorization issued by the commissioner, state entomologist or department.

B. If the state entomologist or his agents find that any bees and/or regulated articles have been brought into this state in violation of any laws and/or regulations governing apiaries, the bees and/or regulated articles may be immediately placed under stop order until released by the commissioner or state entomologist. Upon inspection, the bees or regulated articles may be placed under quarantine. Any violation of stop order or quarantine shall constitute a violation of the apiary law and regulations.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:2308 and R.S. 3:2303.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture, LR 11:517 (May 1985), repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:929 (May 2014), LR 41

§505. Interstate Movement of Supers and Frames Used in Shipping Honey (Formerly LAC 7:XXI.2513)

A. Class A permit holders, by written authorization of the commissioner or state entomologist, may move supers filled with frames and/or honey into and out of the state provided that each such super is moved free of bees and under a bee proof enclosure. Each load of supers must bear a brand or label containing the name, address and telephone number of the shipper or mover.

B. The department shall be notified, either in advance of or at the time of arrival, of the number of such supers filled with frames and/or honey being moved into the state. The department shall also be provided the name, address and telephone number of the recipient of each super if the recipient is not the Class A permit holder to whom written authorization was issued.

C. All such supers filled with frames and/or honey shall be subject to inspection by authorized department personnel.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:2303.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture, LR 11:517 (May 1985), repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:930 (May 2014), LR 41:

§507. Annual Registration and Designation of Class A and B Permits (Formerly LAC 7:XXI.2503)

A. Beekeepers will be designated as Class A or Class B permit holders. To be eligible for a Class A permit, an applicant must either:

1. be domiciled in this state; or

2. have held a Class B permit for three consecutive violation-free years. If violations are incurred at any time during this three-year period, the Class B permit holder will automatically be placed back at year one, pending payment of any fines levied against him by the commissioner.

B. The holder of a Class A permit may do the following:

1. keep or move bees within Louisiana in new or used beekeeping equipment;

2. apply to the department for an inspection for the purpose of moving bees;

3. move bees out of Louisiana upon receiving a certificate of inspection from the department; and

4. move bees into Louisiana as long as bees are accompanied by an inspection certificate from the state of origin.

C. The holder of a Class B permit may do the following:

1. keep or move bees within Louisiana as long as the bees or equipment are established in Louisiana and are obtained from a beekeeper registered with the department;

2. keep or move bees obtained as a combless package that have been certified from the state of origin into Louisiana and move new, but not used, beekeeping equipment into Louisiana; and

3. apply to the department for a certificate of inspection for the purpose of determining the general health of the bees and to establish that the bees are not in violation of any apiary laws or regulations. This certificate of inspection will not confer authority on a Class B permit holder to move bees.

D. The holder of a Class B permit shall do the following:

1. maintain his yard or apiary a minimum of two miles from any other bee yard or apiary for three consecutive violation-free years. The holder of a Class B permit must be able to demonstrate that he made reasonable efforts to ascertain and ensure that his bee yard or apiary would not be set up within a two mile radius of an existing bee yard or apiary. The holder of a Class B permit may move his yard or apiary within two miles of an existing yard or apiary if the owner of the existing apiary gives written permission.

2. provide the department with a map and the GPS coordinates of his bee yard or apiary every year at the time when the bees are registered with the department; and

3. apply for an inspection of the bees and be inspected for three consecutive years and be found free of any regulated pests of diseases during those years.

E. Permits issued for registration shall not allow the holder to move bees or regulated articles as is provided for with a certificate of inspection.

F. Failure to register colonies of bees in the state of Louisiana is a violation of this Part.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:2305 and R.S. 2:2303.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture, LR 11:517 (May 1985), repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:930 (May 2014), LR 41:

§509. Authority to Enter Premises
(Formerly LAC 7:XXI.2505)

A. For the purpose of ascertaining whether bees or regulated articles may have been or are being transported in violation of the apiary law or regulations, authorized personnel may enter onto property in the state where apiaries, bees or regulated articles are located, or are reasonably believed to be located, to determine if colonies or apiaries located on the property have been registered and are in compliance with all other apiary laws and regulations.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:2308 and R.S. 3:2303.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture, LR 11:517 (May 1985), repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:930 (May 2014), LR 41:

§511. Applications for Inspection
(Formerly LAC 7:XXI.2507)

A. Beekeepers who desire certificates of inspection authorizing the movement of bees and/or regulated articles shall make application for inspection on a form that will be furnished by the department prior to moving the bees and/or regulated articles

B. The applicant must furnish the department with a ~~A~~ map showing the location of the bees and/or regulated articles to be moved. If the bees or regulated articles are at one or more apiaries, then a map showing each apiary where the bees or regulated articles are located must be submitted along with the application. Any relocation of any bees or regulated articles that are scheduled to be moved shall be provided to the department prior to or as soon as possible after the relocation.

C. The intrastate relocation of bees or regulated articles shall not require a certificate of inspection unless the bees or regulated articles are located in an area under a geographic or local quarantine or are under stop order.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:2307 and R.S. 3:2303.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture, LR 11:517 (May 1985), repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:930 (May 2014), LR 41:

§513. Issuance and Use of Certificates of Inspection
(Formerly LAC 7:XXI.2509)

A. No certificate of inspection shall be issued by the department for the movement of bees or regulated articles unless the bees or regulated articles come from apiaries that:

1. are not under a geographic or local quarantine or a stop order;

2. have been inspected at least once in the twelve months prior to the date of application for a certificate of inspection;

3. are free of American foulbrood infection; and

4. have effective control of any other disease or pest, if such an infestation is present.

B. Certificates of inspection shall not be issued to cover the shipment or movement of bees and/or regulated articles from an area that has been quarantined on account of American foulbrood infection until it has been determined by state entomologist that the American foul-brood infestation has been destroyed.

C. The issuance of a certificate of inspection by the department is discretionary if the applicant is not registered with the department, the colony or apiary to be inspected is not registered with the department, the applicant owes outstanding fines or fees to the department, the apiaries are not properly marked, or if the applicant is otherwise not in compliance with the apiary laws and regulations.

D. No certificate of inspection issued by the department shall be used to move bees or regulated articles from any apiary or other location not listed on the certificate of inspection.

E. All hives shall have removable tops and frames allowing inspection at all depths.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:2306, R.S. 3:2303, and R.S. 3:2307.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture, LR 11:517 (May 1985), repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:931 (May 2014), LR 41:

§515. Quarantines
(Formerly LAC 7:XXI.2515)

A. As an exercise of the full and plenary power granted by statute to deal with all diseases and pests of bees the commissioner or the state entomologist may declare and enforce a geographic quarantine of any area of the state or from any regulated area when necessary to control, eradicate, or prevent the introduction, spread, or dissemination of a disease or pest.

1. A geographic quarantine shall contain a concise statement of the facts supporting the declaration of quarantine, the geographical area of quarantine, the date the quarantine is to begin, the objectives of the quarantine, the prohibitions and restrictions imposed by the quarantine, and any other special provisions.

2. The movement of bees or regulated articles from any quarantined area into non-quarantined areas of the state is prohibited except as provided by the terms of the geographic quarantine or by special permit of the commissioner or the state entomologist obtained prior to movement.

3. A geographic quarantine may be amended, lifted, or modified by written declaration of the commissioner or state entomologist.

4. A geographic quarantine and any amendment, lifting, or modification of such quarantine shall go into effect immediately upon being declared unless a later effective date is stated.

5. A geographic quarantine and any amendment to or lifting or modification of a geographic quarantine shall be published in the next available edition of the Louisiana Register.

B. The commissioner or the state entomologist may impose a local quarantine on specific apiaries, colonies, bees or regulated articles, or other specific location when necessary to control, eradicate, or prevent the introduction, spread, or dissemination of a disease or pest.

1. A local quarantine shall contain a concise statement of the facts supporting the declaration of quarantine, the beekeeper, the specific apiaries, colonies, bees or regulated articles, or location being quarantined, the date the quarantine is to begin, the prohibitions and restrictions imposed by the quarantine, and any other special provisions.

2. The movement of bees or regulated articles into or out of any apiary or location subject to a local quarantine is prohibited except as provided by the terms of the local quarantine or by special permit of the commissioner or the state entomologist obtained prior to movement.

3. A local quarantine may be amended, lifted, or modified by written declaration of the commissioner or state entomologist.

4. A local quarantine and any amendment, lifting, or modification of such quarantine shall go into effect immediately upon being declared unless a later effective date is stated.

5. A local quarantine and any amendment, lifting, or modification of such quarantine does not need to be published in the Louisiana Register.

AUTHORITY NOTE:Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:2308, R.S. 3:2304 and R.S. 3:2303.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture, LR 11:517 (May 1985), repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:931 (May 2014), LR 41:

§517. Eradication Measures
(Formerly LAC 7:XXI.2517)

A. All persons who know of or suspect an infestation or infection of any bees or regulated articles with any disease or pest shall immediately report such information to the department.

B. All colonies of bees infected with American foulbrood shall be destroyed by burning the frames, bees and combs in the presence of or by an agent or specialist of the department. Hive bodies and top and bottom boards saved from infected colonies shall be moved from the yard during the burning process or by a time prescribed by agents of the department and are to be scorched or properly treated to remove possible sources of reinfestation

before re-use. Failure to adhere to this requirement shall result in destruction of all infected equipment including hive bodies, top and bottom boards.

C. Nuclei exposed to American foulbrood infection by the transfer of combs with brood or bees from an infected colony or yard shall be destroyed by burning.

D. If any apiary or yard of bees has 4 percent or less American foulbrood infestation, as noted below, the infected colony(ies) shall be burned immediately and a stop order issued. This shall mean that a second inspection shall be made within 21-30 days to insure control of the disease. Where a second inspection is required, colonies shall not be moved except under special permit issued by the state entomologist.

Colonies in Apiary or Yard	AFB Infected Colony
01–25	1
26–50	2
51–75	3
75 or more	4

1. If over 4 percent of the colonies, but not more than four colonies in the case of over 100 colonies, in an apiary or yard are found to be infested with American foulbrood, the colonies shall be burned immediately and the apiary or yard shall be placed under a 21-30 day quarantine, during such time no drugs will be allowed to be fed to the bees. If after 21-30 days an inspection shows that the apiary or yard is found free from American foulbrood infestation, the quarantine shall be lifted. However, if American foulbrood is again found, an additional 21-30 day quarantine period shall be enforced and infested colonies shall be burned immediately. An additional 60-day quarantine shall be enforced on any quarantined apiary or yard found to be treated with drugs to mask the infection.

E. All colonies of bees found infected with European foulbrood shall be requeened or treated within 30 days after infection is found. European foulbrood found in excess of 4 percent upon second inspection shall be quarantined until the disease is under control.

F. All other bee diseases and/or pests found that are considered detrimental to the honeybee industry shall be treated as prescribed by the state entomologist or his designee for the control of same. Bees or regulated articles infested with any pest or infected with any disease shall be subject to being placed under a quarantine and treated as determined by the commissioner and state entomologist.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:2308, R.S. 3:2304 and R.S. 3:2303.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture, LR 11:517 (May 1985), repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:931 (May 2014), LR 41:

§519. Penalties and Adjudicatory Proceedings (Formerly LAC 7:XXI.2519)

Repealed.
AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:2310 and R.S. 3:2303.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture, LR 11:517 (May 1985), repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:932 (May 2014); LR 41:

Title 7
AGRICULTURE AND ANIMALS
Part XV. Plant Protection and Quarantines
Chapter 7. Control of Fire Ants
(Formerly LAC 7:XXI.Chapter 27)

§701. Authority (Formerly LAC 7:XXI.2701)

Repealed.
AUTHORITY NOTE: Adopted in accordance with R.S. 3:2351.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Agriculture, June 1960, repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:932 (May 2014), repealed LR 41:

§703. Definitions of Words, Terms and Phrases (Formerly LAC 7:XXI.2703)

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Adopted in accordance with R.S. 3:2351.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Agriculture, June 1960, repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:932 (May 2014), repealed LR 41:

§705. Scouting, Inspection, Control and Eradication Authority (Formerly LAC 7:XXI.2705)

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Adopted in accordance with R.S. 3:2351.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Agriculture, June 1960, repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:932 (May 2014), repealed LR 41:

§707. Quarantined Area (Formerly LAC 7:XXI.2707)

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Adopted in accordance with R.S. 3:2353 and R.S. 3:2351.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Agriculture, June 1960, repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:933 (May 2014), repealed LR 41:

§709. Regulated Products (Formerly LAC 7:XXI.2709)

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Adopted in accordance with R.S. 3:2353 and R.S. 3:2351.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Agriculture, June 1960, repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:933 (May 2014), repealed LR 41:

§711. Conditions Governing Movement of Regulated Products (Formerly LAC 7:XXI.2711)

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Adopted in accordance with R.S. 3:2351.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Agriculture, June 1960, repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:933 (May 2014), repealed LR 41:

§713. Conditions Governing the Issuance of Certificates, Limited Permits and Dealer-Carrier Agreements (Formerly LAC 7:XXI.2713)

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Adopted in accordance with R.S. 3:2351.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Agriculture, June 1960, repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:934 (May 2014), repealed LR 41:

§715. Assembly of Articles for Inspection (Formerly LAC 7:XXI.2715)

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Adopted in accordance with R.S. 3:2351.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Agriculture, June 1960, repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:934 (May 2014), repealed LR 41:

§717. Cancellation of Certificates or Limited Permits
(Formerly LAC 7:XXI.2717)

Repealed.
AUTHORITY NOTE: Adopted in accordance with R.S. 3:2351.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Agriculture, June 1960, repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:934 (May 2014), repealed LR 41:

§719. Waiver of Liability
(Formerly LAC 7:XXI.2719)

Repealed.
AUTHORITY NOTE: Adopted in accordance with R.S. 3:2351.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Agriculture, June 1960, repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:934 (May 2014), repealed LR 41:

§721. Shipments for Scientific Purposes
(Formerly LAC 7:XXI.2721)

Repealed.
AUTHORITY NOTE: Adopted in accordance with R.S. 3:2351.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Agriculture, June 1960, repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:934 (May 2014), repealed LR 41:

§723. Penalties
(Formerly LAC 7:XXI.2723)

Repealed.
AUTHORITY NOTE: Adopted in accordance with R.S. 3:2354 and R.S. 3:2351.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Agriculture, June 1960, repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:934 (May 2014), repealed LR 41:

§725. Effective Date
(Formerly LAC 7:XXI.2725)

Repealed.
AUTHORITY NOTE: Adopted in accordance with R.S. 3:2351.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Agriculture, June 1960, repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:934 (May 2014), repealed LR 41:

Family Impact Statement

The proposed Rule does not have any known or foreseeable impact on family formation, stability, and autonomy. In particular, the proposed Rule has no known or foreseeable impact on:
(1) the stability of the family;
(2) the authority and rights of persons regarding the education and supervision of their children;
(3) the functioning of the family;
(4) family earnings and family budget;
(5) the behavior and personal responsibility of children;
(6) the ability of the family or a local government to perform the function as contained in the proposed Rule.

Poverty Impact Statement

The proposed Rule does not have any known or foreseeable impact on any child, individual or family as defined by R.S. 49:973(B). In particular, there should be no known or foreseeable effect on:
(1) the effect on household income, assets, and financial security;
(2) the effect on early childhood development and preschool through postsecondary education development;
(3) the effect on employment and workforce development;
(4) the effect on taxes and tax credits;
(5) the effect on child and dependent care, housing, health care, nutrition, transportation, and utilities assistance.

Small Business Statement

The proposed Rule will have no adverse impact on small businesses as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Provider Impact Statement

The proposed Rule does not have any known or foreseeable impact on providers as defined by HCR 170 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session. In particular, there should be no known or foreseeable effect on:

(1) the effect on the staffing level requirements or qualifications required to provide the same level of service;

(2) the total direct and indirect effect on the cost to the providers to provide the same level of service; or

(3) the overall effect on the ability of the provider to provide the same level of service.

Public Comments

Interested persons may submit written comments, data, opinions and arguments regarding the proposed Rule. Written submissions must be directed to Allen Fabre, Department of Agriculture & Forestry, 5825 Florida Blvd., Suite 3002, Baton Rouge, LA 70806 and must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on the 4th day of February 2016. No preamble is available.

Mike Strain, DVM
Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry