

**August 2025**

**Economic Impact Statements for Proposed Rules**

The corresponding proposed Rule to each of the statements below may be viewed in its entirety in the August 20, 2025 *Louisiana Register*. Each *Louisiana Register* edition is published on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

<b>Promulgating Agency</b>	<b>Proposed Rule Title</b>	<b>Estimated Costs and/or Economic Benefits to Directly Affected Persons, Small Businesses or Nongovernmental Groups</b>
<b>Department of Agriculture and Forestry</b>	<b>Advisory Commission on Pesticides</b>	The proposed rule changes are estimated to cost affected entities \$50 per applicator. The directly affected entities are businesses that use restricted pesticide applicators. LDAF anticipates approximately 20 applicators per year will be affected.
<b>Department of Agriculture and Forestry</b>	<b>Chronic Wasting Disease</b>	The proposed rule change will primarily impact owners, operators, and patrons of quarantined captive cervid hunting facilities. Persons wishing to mount a deer head killed at such a facility must obtain a free permit from LDAF by contacting staff via phone. LDAF will issue a fillable PDF permit form for each request. This regulation applies only to deer heads removed from quarantined facilities for taxidermy purposes, and does not apply to movements from non-quarantined facilities. There may be a minimal increase in cost to owners, operators, or patrons of quarantined captive cervid hunting facilities due to higher labor costs associated with processing the deer in the quarantined facility, rather than allowing for the removal of the whole deer carcass and processing it at their preferred location. The cost would be approximately one man-hour of time to process the deer in the quarantined facility.
<b>Department of Agriculture and Forestry</b>	<b>Louisiana Egg Commission Revisions</b>	There are no anticipated costs or benefits to directly affected persons, small businesses, or non-governmental groups as a result of the proposed rule changes. Licensees have been paying the increased fee amount of \$100 per license/renewal since that fee was statutorily increased in 2003. Licensees will not be charged any increase in license fees as a result of the proposed rule changes.
<b>Department of Agriculture and Forestry</b>	<b>Trichomoniasis</b>	The proposed rule change could provide direct savings to cattle farmers by decreasing the testing interval for Trichomoniasis in bulls sent to a Trichomoniasis Quarantine Facility, while incurring no added risk of disease spread to other Louisiana cattle farmers.
<b>Louisiana Economic Development</b>	<b>High Impact Jobs Program</b>	The program will directly benefit businesses that receive awards by providing them with additional grant funding from the state. Applying businesses will be subject to an application fee and compliance requirements, but these requirements should not be significant and should be outweighed by the benefits should a grant award be received.
<b>Louisiana Economic Development</b>	<b>Small and Emerging Business Development Program</b>	There are no anticipated costs to directly affected persons, small businesses, or non-governmental groups. The proposed rule allows for an unlimited certification for businesses certified as small and emerging (Firms), instead of a 10-year certification, until the Firm graduates or is terminated from the program by LED; thereby providing the Firm with the benefits of access to technical and managerial assistance to allow for growth and attainment of business goals.
<b>Department of Energy and Natural Resources</b>	<b>Pipeline Safety</b>	The proposed rule changes directly affect pipeline operators and underground natural gas storage operators. Because the proposed rule changes codify federal regulations that these operators are already required to comply with, no additional economic impact to the regulated community is anticipated.

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Department of Energy and Natural Resources	Pipeline Safety—Liquid Chlorine	The proposed rule change will directly affect liquid chlorine pipeline operators. Operators may experience increased workload due to compliance with testing, operations and maintenance requirements, operator qualification standards and corrosion control measures as outlined in the rule. It is estimated that operators not currently subject to these requirements may incur additional compliance costs of approximately \$200,000 per year.
Department of Energy and Natural Resources	Unconventional Reservoir Development	The oil and gas industry will be directly affected by the proposed rule change, however the proposed rule change is not anticipated to result in any increased costs or workload. The oil and gas industry will benefit from the proposed rule change through increased revenue from gas production associated with 10% longer single-unit horizontal laterals and reduced costs associated with more efficient surface and subsurface well placement. The proposed rule change also simplifies the application process for surface commingling required by cross-unit and unit line development and eliminates a duplicative filing fee if the comingling involves cross-unit or unit line wells.
Department of Energy and Natural Resources	Regulation of Solar Power Generation Facilities	The proposed rule will affect persons, small businesses, and non-governmental groups associated with ownership or operational control of utility-scale solar facilities. The cost of obtaining the required decommissioning plan and financial security that is imposed on owners/operators of these facilities is difficult to quantify, as the size and complexity of each facility varies. The decommissioning plan will also provide economic benefits to the local community where a facility is sited.
Department of Environmental Quality	Safe Management of Recalled Airbags	The proposed rule change will allow dealerships, salvage yards, and other facilities to expedite the removal of defective airbag inflators from vehicles. Currently, airbag waste is subject to the hazardous waste regulations. The proposed rule change will remove some of the stringent waste management, shipping, and record-keeping requirements for airbag waste.
Department of Environmental Quality	Voluntary Environmental Self-Audit Regulations	Participation in the environmental self-audit program is voluntary. If a disclosed violation is not eligible for relief under the audit program or an entity fails to meet the conditions for penalty mitigation, the department can take enforcement action. The enforcement action may result in a civil penalty.
Office of the Governor	Auctioneers	Electronic meetings could reduce expenses for individuals participating in meetings by negating the need for travel to a commission meeting. The proposed rule change also codifies an alternative path to licensure for certain individuals as authorized in La. R.S. 37:51 et seq. (The Welcome Home Act), which may result in an economic benefit for those applicants.
Office of the Governor	Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities (GUMBO)	The proposed rule change is not anticipated to result in any costs and/or economic benefits to directly affected persons, small businesses, or non-governmental groups.
Office of the Governor	Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities 2.0 (GUMBO 2.0)	The proposed rule change is not anticipated to result in any costs and/or economic benefits to directly affected persons, small businesses, or non-governmental groups.
Office of the Governor	Participation in the Office of Group Benefits	This proposed rule change will permit persons who mistakenly enroll in a non-OGB sponsored Medicare Advantage plan the opportunity to return to OGB-sponsored coverage within a limited timeframe if they reimburse past premiums due instead of not being permitted to enroll in OGB-sponsored coverage. This may provide an economic benefit to some of OGB's plan members as they are eligible to receive a contribution to their premium payments as a result of their participation in OGB coverage during their years as an employee. Once they leave OGB-sponsored health coverage, they are no longer eligible for this contribution.

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Department of Health	Application Procedures and Board Fees	Proposed rule change will clarify applications for licensees, certificants and registrants must be submitted pursuant to statute requirements. There are no anticipated costs and/or benefits to directly affected persons, small businesses, or non-governmental groups as a direct result of the proposed rule change.
Department of Health	Eligibility—Family Opportunity Act Medicaid Program	This proposed rule amends the provisions governing eligibility for the Family Opportunity Act Medicaid Program to establish continuous eligibility requirements, and to prevent termination of Medicaid or CHIP eligibility due to non-payment of premiums for children under the age of 19 during a continuous eligibility period. This will benefit beneficiaries by keeping children on Medicaid or CHIP despite non-payment of premiums. It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will not result in costs to providers and will have no impact on small businesses in FY 25-26, FY 26-27, and FY 27-28.
Department of Health	Medical Transportation Program Non-Emergency Medical Transportation	This proposed rule adds the category of Transportation Network Companies into the brokered transportation networks used in managed care, fee-for-service, and existing programs as an additional category of non-emergency medical transportation. The number of trips required by Medicaid recipients is expected to remain the same, but they will have more options for receiving transportation services. This is expected to have a positive impact on beneficiaries, as these providers can be utilized to complete trips that traditional providers are unable to fulfill in the case of vehicle malfunctions or other unforeseen emergencies. It is anticipated this proposed rule will have no fiscal impact in FY 25-26, FY 26-27, and FY 27-28 since the number of services provided and the fees for those services are not changing.
Department of Health	Professional Services Reimbursement Methodology	This proposed rule continues the provisions of the July 1, 2025 Emergency Rule, which increased the reimbursement rates for physicians in order to align them with the Medicare rates. This was done as a result of compliance with Act 306 of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session. This proposed rule is expected to have a positive impact on providers and beneficiaries, since increased reimbursements may encourage higher provider participation in Medicaid and improve coverage for beneficiaries. It is estimated that this proposed rule will result in increased payments to providers by \$258,400,000 for FY 26, \$518,800,000 for FY 27, and \$518,800,000 for FY 28.
Department of Health	Refugee Medical Assistance	The proposed rule continues the provisions of the July 1, 2025 Emergency Rule, which shortens the period that assistance is granted through the RMA Program from one year to four months and outlines the conditions for the termination of RMA services. Proposed rule is anticipated to have an indeterminable impact on access to essential healthcare and support services for refugees during the shortened period of the RMA Program. To the extent that refugees require medical attention during the time period between 5 and 12 months of initial resettlement, costs will be passed on to refugees, providers, and Medicaid through Uncompensated Care Costs (UCC). It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will result in indeterminable costs to providers but will have no impact on small businesses in FY 25-26, FY 26-27, and FY 27-28.
Department of Public Safety and Corrections	Special Agents	There is no anticipated cost and/or economic benefits to directly affected persons, small businesses, or non-governmental groups as a result of the proposed rule change.
Department of Public Safety and Corrections	Administrative Procedures	There are no anticipated costs or economic benefits to directly affected persons, small businesses, or non-governmental groups.
Department of Public Safety and Corrections	Required Equipment	There are no anticipated costs or economic benefits to directly affected persons, small businesses, or non-governmental groups.

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Department of Revenue	Alcoholic Beverage Sales by Out-of-State Sellers to Louisiana Wholesalers—Registration and Electronic Reporting Procedures	Persons, small businesses, or non-governmental groups will directly benefit from the proposed regulation. Currently, out-of-state manufacturers and wholesalers selling alcoholic content beverages to Louisiana licensed wholesale dealers must prepare and mail paper reports immediately upon shipment of all sales with descriptive content information and shipping details. Under the proposed rule, out-of-state manufacturers and wholesalers will be able to input information into an electronic template provided by LDR on its website, which is anticipated to simplify their workload, reduce paperwork, and avoid the cost of postage. Submission will only be required on a monthly basis documenting sales and shipments of the reporting period, if activity has occurred.
Department of Transportation and Development	Personnel	The proposed rule change is not anticipated to impact individuals, small businesses, or non-governmental groups. It repeals provisions that regulate only the DOTD's internal management.
Department of Transportation and Development	Pipe Bursting/Crushing	The proposed rule change is not anticipated to impact individuals, small businesses, or non-governmental groups.
Department of Transportation and Development	Recycling of Highway Construction and Maintenance Material	The proposed rule change is not anticipated to impact individuals, small businesses, or non-governmental groups.
Department of Transportation and Development	System Management	The proposed rule change is not anticipated to impact individuals, small businesses, or non-governmental groups. It repeals provisions that regulate only DOTD's internal management.
Department of Transportation and Development	Combination or Double Tandem Load Permit	The proposed rule change neither increases nor decreases the cost to or the value of the economic benefits to directly affected persons, including truck drivers, small freight carriers, small businesses, and non-governmental groups.
Department of Treasury	Municipal Employees' Retirement System	There are no anticipated costs or economic benefits to directly affected person, small businesses, or non-governmental groups.
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries	Administration of the Natural and Scenic Rivers and Historic and Scenic Rivers	<p>The proposed rule changes are intended to reduce costs and streamline processes for landowners and small businesses along Louisiana's scenic rivers. LDWF receives approximately 60 applications a year for projects along these rivers. The proposed changes will simplify tree removal procedures, reduce public notice requirements, shorten comment periods, and allow more flexibility for delayed projects and permit extensions.</p> <p>The proposed rule change, which reduces the number of times proposed projects must be published in a local journal, is anticipated to lower the costs associated with announcing projects and soliciting public comments. The expense of posting legal notices in local journals depends upon the length of the notice and varies from journal to journal.</p> <p>The proposed list of activities that qualify for expedited permitting is anticipated to benefit many project applicants by expediting the approval process. The proposed changes are anticipated to reduce the time for project approval from three months to three weeks.</p>

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Department of Wildlife and Fisheries	Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program	<p>The overall impact of the proposed rule change, which proposes area closures, is anticipated to be minimal because the closures would occur during the time of the year with the lowest harvests, and adjacent waters will remain open for crab fishers to continue to fish.</p> <p>Crab fishers who utilize the areas proposed for closure will experience lost fishing time during the designated period and incur additional costs to remove their traps temporarily. These crab fishers must either move their traps to open fishing areas or remove their traps from the water for the duration of the closure. Traps that are not removed from waters in the closed areas within the allotted time may be destroyed, potentially creating an additional cost to replace the traps for noncompliant fishers.</p> <p>Local seafood dealers, processors, and consumers may experience a slight decrease in the availability of fresh crabs during the closures, resulting in a slightly higher price for fresh crabs in the short term. However, the crab resource will not be lost or harmed in any way and will be available for harvest when the closed area is reopened.</p> <p>The removal of abandoned crab traps should provide improved fishing and reduced fishing costs for recreational saltwater fishers, commercial fishers, and individuals who operate vessels within the designated areas by reducing encounters with abandoned traps that often result in lost fishing time and damage to the vessel's lower unit or fishing gear. The removal of abandoned crab traps will reduce the mortality and injuries to crabs and bycatch that become ensnared and die in these traps, benefiting crab harvesters.</p>
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries	Wildlife Rehabilitation Program	<p>The proposed rule changes may reduce recording-keeping costs, training costs, and other regulatory compliance expenditures for wildlife rehabilitators.</p> <p>The LDWF recorded an average of 147 nuisance wildlife control operators and 51 resident-nonresident wildlife rehabilitators between License Year (LY) 2022 and LY 2024.</p>
Workforce Commission	Plumbers—Introductory Information; Officers; and Meetings	There are no anticipated costs or economic benefits to directly affected person, small businesses, or non-governmental groups.