

June 2020

Economic Impact Statements for Proposed Rules

The corresponding proposed rule to each of the statements below may be viewed in its entirety in the June 20, 2020 *Louisiana Register*. Each *Louisiana Register* edition is published on the 20th of each month and can be viewed here: <https://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/osr/reg/regs2020.aspx>

Promulgating Agency	Proposed Rule Title	Estimated Costs and/or Economic Benefits to Directly Affected Persons, Small Businesses or Nongovernmental Groups
<p style="text-align: center;">Department of Agriculture and Forestry</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Guava Root Knot Nematode Quarantine</p>	<p>The proposed rule is not anticipated to create any costs. This proposed rule is required in order to provide the sweet potato processing industry an opportunity to source sweet potatoes from areas quarantined for GRKN to the processing facility under special permit issued by the Department. Without the ability to purchase additional sweet potatoes from outside the mid-south region, the industry is in jeopardy of having to cease operations for several months. Employees of processing facilities may be affected by potential plant closings as it is estimated that the total cost of lost wages and benefits would amount to \$2.5 million. Potential plant closings could also affect the welfare of the sweet potato industry by creating a limited market for producers to sell their sweet potatoes to processors. In 2019, sweet potato acreage in Louisiana was approximately 7,600 acres. According to Louisiana State University Ag Center, the processing market in Louisiana is a significant market and utilizes 65% of Louisiana’s sweet potato crop.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Department of Children and Family Services</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)</p>	<p>The proposed rule change will have an impact on several groups. The proposed change will have an economic cost to certain individuals convicted of crimes and individuals who receive a minimum level of lottery and gambling winnings, given that they will no longer be eligible for SNAP benefits. The proposed change will have an economic benefit to certain individuals whose head of household does not meet the mandatory work registration requirements, given that they will no longer be disqualified for SNAP benefits. The proposed change may have an economic benefit to individuals that were previously disqualified for SNAP benefits due to a failure to participate in the E&T program, given that the E&T program is no longer mandatory.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Department of Environmental Quality</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recovery Furnaces</p>	<p>The proposed rule will decrease compliance costs for owners or operators of recovery furnaces located at pulp and paper mills obligated to comply with more stringent federal standards for particulate matter under 40 CFR 63 Subpart MM by reducing the frequency of the performance tests required by LAC 33:III.2301.D.4.b.ii from annually to once every five years.</p>

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Board of Nursing	License and Continuing Education Renewal	<p>The proposed rule changes clarify the licensure renewal and continuing education processes. Significant changes include revisions to the continuing education, from 15 hours annually to 30 hours every two years to align with the biennial license renewal. Furthermore, the proposed rule changes also allow a minimum of 900 practice hours during the 2-year licensure period as verified by the employer will be accepted as demonstration of competency in lieu of 30 hours of continuing education, which may benefit some nurses and result in a savings on continuing education costs. Furthermore, the proposed rule changes require nurses to pay biennial licensure renewal fees to align with present practice.</p>
Department of Health	Dental Benefits Prepaid Ambulatory Health Plan	<p>This proposed rule amends the provisions governing the dental benefits prepaid ambulatory health plan in order to allow for more than one dental benefits plan manager to service Medicaid enrollees and to allow for the department to contract with a vendor for enrollment broker services for member enrollment into one of the available plans. This proposed Rule will be beneficial to recipients by increasing the availability of plans, which will provide families with a greater choice of available providers and services as it will allow for multiple dental benefits plan managers. It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will result in programmatic costs to the Medicaid program of \$6,253,698 in FY 20-21 and \$4,615,650 in FY 21-22. In addition, if the state contracts with more than one dental benefit management plan, this is expected to increase current administrative costs of the program.</p>
Department of Public Safety and Corrections	Issuance of Concealed Handgun Permits	<p>The proposed rule removes the requirement that online concealed handgun application forms be notarized, which directly affects applicants that no longer need to pay notarization fees. In FY 19, the Department of Public Safety, Public Safety Services reports 20,133 new or renewal permits and 5,552 life time permits were issued. While the number of permits issued on an annual basis varies due to external factors, applicants that apply online will realize cost savings as a result of not requiring notarization.</p> <p>The proposed rule will result in an indeterminable loss of income to small businesses and individuals that provide notarial services throughout the state as a result of not realizing revenue from notarization fees for concealed handgun permit applications. The number of individuals that will apply for concealed handgun permits online is indeterminable. Due to the fact that individual notaries in Louisiana charge different rates for notarization services, the exact revenue impact to notaries is indeterminable.</p>

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Department of Wildlife and Fisheries	Alligators	The proposed rule change increasing the length of the wild alligator harvesting season from 30 to 60 days is expected to benefit persons who wish to pursue alligators for recreational purposes, as well as hunting guides and landowners who possess alligator habitat. It will provide additional opportunities for participation and add flexibility in the timing of such activities. It will not affect the number of alligators harvested, a number which will continue to be determined by biological factors.
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries	Reef Fish—Harvest Regulations	The proposed lower trip limit to 1,000 pounds per trip for greater amberjack caught commercially, will have a negative impact for commercial fishers. LDWF estimates an annual loss to fishers of \$26,000.
Workforce Commission	Employer Requirement to Provide Notification of the Availability of Unemployment Insurance Benefits to Each Individual Employee at the Time of Separation	The cost to businesses to implement the notification requirement should be minimal given that they can notify separated employees through electronic means, such as email or text. However, to the extent that more separated employees are approved for unemployment benefits as a result of this notification, employer's unemployment insurance premiums will likely increase. There may be an economic benefit to separated employees that file an unemployment claim as a result of the notification who may not have applied otherwise. However, the amount of this benefit is not quantifiable