

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 429 (HB 393)

2018 Regular Session

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Existing law requires market agencies, those who sell livestock on commission, to obtain a permit from the La. Board of Animal Health (board).

New law requires livestock dealers to also obtain a permit from the board annually on a form prescribed by the board.

New law authorizes the board to deny, revoke, or suspend any permit for material misstatements in the permit application, allowing permit use by unpermitted persons, conviction of certain crimes, disciplinary actions by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA), lack of qualifications, or unpaid fines or penalties imposed by the board.

New law specifies that the Administrative Procedure Act governs the proceedings for the denial, revocation, or suspension of a permit and authorizes the board to recover costs for disciplinary actions.

Existing law requires market agencies and livestock dealers to keep certain records.

Prior law provided that willful failure to keep such records results in an automatic permit revocation. New law repeals prior law.

Prior law provided that livestock brand inspectors employed by the commissioner and the director and assistant director of the Livestock Brand Commission are commissioned as peace officers by the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections. New law removes the commission for the director and assistant director.

New law adds the duty to enforce rules and regulations adopted by the board to those peace officers so commissioned.

Existing law prohibits the use of a brand not recorded with the commission. New law also prohibits offering livestock for sale without providing the true owner for the purpose of livestock theft or violation of a quarantine issued by the board.

Prior law specified that the state veterinarian is the executive secretary of board.

New law repeals prior law and instead authorizes the board to appoint the executive secretary with approval of the commissioner of agriculture.

Existing law provides the board with the following powers:

- (1) To adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement and enforce powers and duties as assigned.
- (2) To hold hearings and conduct investigations.
- (3) To issue subpoenas for witness attendance or document production for any hearing.
- (4) To issue charters and determine public livestock market sale days.
- (5) To compel livestock owners to quarantine, test, or vaccinate livestock to prevent, control, or eradicate certain infectious diseases.
- (6) To issue cease and desist orders upon a violation causing significant damage to animal health.
- (7) To institute civil proceedings seeking injunctive relief to prevent violations of law.
- (8) To impose certain civil penalties up to \$1,000 per violation of law and provides for separate offenses.

- (9) To advise the La. Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry, USDA, and the legislature with respect to all phases of the meat industry, including the slaughtering and processing of meat.
- (10) To adopt rules and regulations to monitor compliance relative to tampering with livestock at a public exhibition.
- (11) To adopt rules and regulations to establish standards governing the well-being of bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, and poultry bred for show or profit or for selling or for producing for market.

New law adds the power to issue market agency and livestock dealer permits and to assess penalties in administrative hearings.

New law expands the civil penalties the board can impose to include public or private letters of reprimand or concern; restitution of the department's costs; and denial, revocation, or suspension of any permit issued by the board.

Effective August 1, 2018.

(Amends R.S. 3:563, 564, 734(A) and (B)(1), 735, 2092(B), and 2093(5) through (11); Adds R.S. 3:561(6) and 2093(12) and (13))