
DIGEST

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Terry Landry

HB No. 664

Abstract: Creates the sweet potato dealer's permit and revises provisions for the sweet potato industry relative to sweet potato pests and diseases.

Proposed law creates the sweet potato dealer's permit and requires any person, including sweet potato growers and farmers, who commercially grow, sell or offer sweet potatoes for sale to possess a sweet potato dealer's permit.

Proposed law requires applicants for a sweet potato dealer's permit to complete and file an application as required by the La. Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry (department), which sets forth the following conditions:

- (1) A guarantee to reimburse the purchase price for any sweet potatoes confiscated due to sweet potato weevil infestation or unauthorized sale.
- (2) An agreement to permit, at the dealer's cost, the disposal by the department or return to the point of origin any sweet potatoes sold without authorization or infested with sweet potato weevils.
- (3) A signed agreement to comply with all sweet potato quarantine regulations and specified conditions.

Proposed law does not apply to retail grocers and other retail outlets selling sweet potatoes possessing a valid inspection certificate permit or permit tag, and that are sold directly to the consumer from a permanent location.

Proposed law provides for the suspension, revocation, or probation of a sweet potato dealer's permit if the permit holder fails to comply with the provisions of proposed law or with a signed compliance agreement with the department.

Proposed law allows the department to refuse the renewal of a sweet potato dealer's permit if the permit holder owes unpaid sweet potato fees, taxes, or civil penalties.

Proposed law provides for the definition of "Certificate Permit", "Certificate Permit Tag", "Commissioner", "Department", "Processing plants", and "Sweet potato".

Proposed law authorizes the commissioner of agriculture to adopt rules and regulations deemed

necessary to enforce the provisions of proposed law.

Present law provides that one-cent of a four-cent per bushel tax on sweet potatoes, collected each year by the La. Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry, be disbursed by the commissioner of agriculture as provided by present law.

Proposed law changes the amount to be disbursed by the commissioner from one cent to a range of one cent to two cents.

Proposed law redesignates present law as follows:

From R.S. 3:1731 to R.S. 3:1733.2

From R.S. 3:1732 to R.S. 3:1735

From R.S. 3:1733 to R.S. 3:1735.1

From R.S. 3:1734(A) to R.S. 3:1733

From R.S. 3:1734(B) to R.S. 3:1737(A)

From R.S. 3:1734(B)(4) to R.S. 3:1737(B)

From R.S. 3:1735 to R.S. 3:1734

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 3:1731-1735, 1736(A), (B), and (E), and 1746(C); Adds R.S. 3:1733.1, 1733.2, 1735.1, 1737, and the heading for Part III-B of Ch. 12 of Title 3 of the L.R.S. of 1950)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development to the original bill.

1. Make technical changes.
2. Change the amount of funding, from one cent to a range of one to two cents of the four-cent per bushel tax, that the La. Sweet Potato Advertising and Development Commission devotes to sweet potato research.
3. Add an effective date.