

**ACT No. 69**

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 593

BY REPRESENTATIVE PUGH

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 3:2358.1, 2358.2(B), 2358.3, 2358.7(A), and 2358.13, to enact  
3 R.S. 3:2358.4(D), and to repeal R.S. 3:2358.5, 2358.6, 2358.7(B), 2358.8, 2358.9,  
4 2358.10, 2358.11, and 2358.12, relative to the regulation of turtles; to provide for  
5 rules and regulations; to provide for definitions; to provide for licensing fees; to  
6 provide for records; to provide for violations; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 3:2358.1, 2358.2(B), 2358.3, 2358.7(A), and 2358.13 are hereby  
9 amended and reenacted and R.S. 3:2358.4(D) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §2358.1. Legislative findings

11 The purpose of this Part is to prevent the introduction into and dissemination  
12 within this state of contagious and infectious diseases of turtles by providing for the  
13 regulation, inspection, and control of farm-raised turtles, which activities are hereby  
14 found and declared by the legislature to promote agriculture and aquaculture within  
15 the state of Louisiana.

16 §2358.2. Administration and enforcement; rules and regulations

17 \* \* \*

18 B. The commissioner shall adopt such rules and regulations as are necessary  
19 to implement the provisions of this Part, including rules regarding breeding, disposal,  
20 raising, identification, inspecting, licensing, monitoring, sanitization, shipping or

1 transporting, testing, and quarantine of farm-raised turtles or turtle eggs. The rules  
 2 and regulations shall be adopted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure  
 3 Act.

4 \* \* \*

5 §2358.3. Definitions

6 When used in this Part, the following terms shall have the following  
 7 meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

8 ~~(1) "Antibiotic" means any bactericide or other organic substance which can~~  
 9 ~~kill bacteria.~~

10 ~~(2) "Certificate of inspection" means a document which verifies species,~~  
 11 ~~destination, turtle group number, and utilization of the Siebeling method and which~~  
 12 ~~is signed by a veterinarian who is licensed in this state, federally accredited, and~~  
 13 ~~approved by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The certificate of~~  
 14 ~~inspection shall be used for movement in intrastate commerce only.~~

15 ~~(3)~~(1) "Certified laboratory" means a laboratory which has a current  
 16 certification or accreditation by the Federal Food and Drug Administration or other  
 17 national certifying or accrediting agency to perform microbiological or residue  
 18 testing of organic or inorganic samples and has a microbiologist on staff, and has  
 19 been approved by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

20 (2) "Chain of custody form" means a document approved by the department  
 21 which verifies species, destination, origin, and turtle group and which is used for  
 22 transporting turtles within the state of Louisiana only.

23 ~~(4)~~(3) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the Department  
 24 Louisiana commissioner of agriculture and forestry.

25 (4) "Farm-raised turtle" means any reptile of the order Testudines which is  
 26 bred, born, raised, or kept, by a licensed turtle farmer within a closed circumscribed  
 27 pond for the purpose of buying, selling, or trading in commerce.

28 (5) "Health certificate" means a document which ~~verifies a certificate of~~  
 29 ~~inspection, attaches a laboratory report and~~ certifies that the turtles or turtle eggs are  
 30 free of visible signs of infectious, contagious, or communicable diseases, and which

1 is signed by a veterinarian who is licensed in this state, federally accredited and  
 2 approved by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. ~~A health certificate shall~~  
 3 ~~be required before turtles or turtle eggs may be shipped or transported or before they~~  
 4 ~~are moved from a certified turtle farm into interstate commerce. A health certificate~~  
 5 ~~may be used in place of a certificate of inspection for movement of turtles or turtle~~  
 6 ~~eggs in intrastate commerce.~~

7 (6) "Licensed turtle farm" means any ~~individual, firm, corporation, or entity~~  
 8 person engaged in the collection, hatching, sale, shipping, or distribution of farm-  
 9 raised turtles or turtle eggs ~~using the Siebeling method or any other sanitization~~  
 10 ~~method which may be required by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry.~~

11 (7) "Person" means any individual, partnership, association, organization,  
 12 or corporation engaged in any phase of the ~~pet~~ farm-raised turtle industry.

13 (8) ~~"Siebeling method" means a process by which turtle eggs are cleaned,~~  
 14 ~~their surfaces disinfected, and a bactericide forced through the pores of the shells~~  
 15 ~~without violating the natural structural integrity of the shell, thereby rendering the~~  
 16 ~~hatchling free of *Salmonella Arizona*, or any other species of bacteria harmful to~~  
 17 ~~humans or other turtles.~~

18 (9)(8) "Turtle group" means any amount, either multiple or single units,  
 19 consisting of no more than twenty thousand farm-raised turtles or turtle eggs.

20 §2358.4. Licensing; fees; renewal

21 \* \* \*

22 D. Each person applying for a turtle farmer license shall complete a written  
 23 application as provided by the commissioner, pay the required license fee, and  
 24 comply with any other requirements for licensure required by the rules and  
 25 regulations adopted pursuant to this Part.

26 \* \* \*

27 §2358.7. Records

28 A. Each licensed turtle farmer shall maintain accurate records including the  
 29 source, ~~identity~~ identification, treatment, health, inspection, and disposal of the farm-



1           Section 2. R.S. 3:2358.5, 2358.6, 2358.7(B), 2358.8, 2358.9, 2358.10, 2358.11, and  
2           2358.12 are hereby repealed in their entirety.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_