Unified Regulatory Plan of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for State Fiscal Year 2024

Prepared on June 30, 2023

Agency Summary

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services operates under the supervision of the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry and promotes the economic growth and development of Virginia agriculture, provides consumer protection, and encourages environmental stewardship. Authority to make regulations administered by the agency lies with the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Potato Board, the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Veterinarian, and the State Milk Commission. Rulemaking powers are established throughout the Code of Virginia (Code), including throughout Title 3.2 of the Code; Article 4 of Chapter 32 of Title 58.1 of the Code; certain chapters of Title 59.1 of the Code; Chapter 7 of Title 61.1 of the Code; Chapter 19.1 of Title 62.1 of the Code; and Article 1.1:1 of Chapter 8 of Title 18.2 of the Code.

The Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services, which is expected to undertake a regulatory action in fiscal year 2024, is a policy board with authority to adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of Title 3.2 of the Code. The State Milk Commission, which is expected to undertake a regulatory action in fiscal year 2024, ensures that Virginians have a constant, available, and reasonably priced supply of milk and is authorized to adopt and enforce regulations necessary to carry out the Milk Commission Act.

Action/Stage or Gu	idance Document Forum ID (if available		
Action 5677 / Stage	Action 5677 / Stage 9390 (proposed)		
Title of Proposed R	egulatory Action or Guidance Document	t	
Promulgate regulat	ion required by Chapter 1284 of the 2020	D Acts of Assembly	
Brief Overview			
This regulatory action	on will result in the promulgation of <i>Regu</i>	ulations for the Inspection of Pet Shops	
Selling Dogs or Cats	s (2 VAC 5-105), a new regulation require	d by Chapter 1284 of the 2020 Acts of	
Assembly, which re	quires the Board of Agriculture and Cons	umer Services to adopt a regulation	
governing the keep	ing of dogs and cats by a pet shop and es	tablishes specific provisions this	
regulation must inc	lude.		
Regulatory Stage	□ NOIRA	Emergency Rule	
(check one box)	Proposed Rule	Revised Proposed	
	🖾 Final Rule	Fast-Track Rule	
Additional	Expedited Review Requested	Guidance Document	
Description	Exempt Action		
Legal Authority	□ Action required by federal statute	Discretionary action	
	Action required by state statute		
Deregulatory			
Component			
Expected Date	July 2023		

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Action 5930 / Stage 9570 (NOIRA) **Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document** Regulatory action to establish a minimum germination rate for cotton seed **Brief Overview** Rules and Regulations for the Enforcement of the Virginia Seed Law (2 VAC 5-390) provides specific requirements for seeds sold in Virginia, including minimum germination rates for vegetable, flower, and peanut seeds. Currently, cotton seed sold in Virginia has no minimum standard for germination rate. The proposed action by the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services seeks to determine an appropriate minimum germination rate for cotton seed sold in Virginia and establish such minimum germination rate in Rules and Regulations for the Enforcement of the Virginia Seed Law. **Regulatory Stage** □ NOIRA □ Emergency Rule (check one box) ⊠ Proposed Rule □ Revised Proposed □ Final Rule □ Fast-Track Rule Additional □ Expedited Review Requested □ Guidance Document Description □ Exempt Action Legal Authority □ Action required by federal statute ⊠ Discretionary action \Box Action required by state statute Deregulatory Component

Expected Date

July 2023

Action/Stage or Gu	idance Document Forum ID (if available)
	9910 (initial proposed)	
Title of Proposed R	egulatory Action or Guidance Document	t
Regulatory action to	o promulgate Texas Hold'em Poker Tourr	nament Regulations
Brief Overview		
The third enactmer	nt of both Chapters 554 and 609 of the 20	22 Acts of Assembly directs the
Commissioner of Ag	griculture and Consumer Services to pron	nulgate regulations regarding Texas
Hold'em poker tour	rnaments consistent with the provisions o	of Chapter 982 of the 2020 Acts of
Assembly. The prop	posed action by the Commissioner of Agr	iculture and Consumer Services will
promulgate Texas H	Hold'em Poker Tournament Regulations (2	11 VAC 20-30) and amend Charitable
Gaming Regulation	s (11 VAC 20-20).	
Regulatory Stage	🗆 NOIRA	Emergency Rule
(check one box)	Proposed Rule	🛛 Revised Proposed
	🗆 Final Rule	Fast-Track Rule
Additional	Expedited Review Requested	Guidance Document
Description	🗵 Exempt Action	
Legal Authority	□ Action required by federal statute	Discretionary action
	Action required by state statute	
Deregulatory		
Component		
Expected Date	August 2023	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Not available

Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document

Regulatory action to amend 11 VAC 20-20 to reflect Chapters 592, 593, 755, and 787 of the 2023 Acts of Assembly.

Brief Overview

Chapters 592 and 593 of the 2023 Acts of Assembly (i) require the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to issue registrations for those organizations anticipating generating \$40,000 or less in charitable gaming gross receipts for no more than seven days per calendar year and (ii) allow for the sale of paper instant bingo, pull-tabs, and seal cards during certain events. Chapters 755 and 787 of the 2023 Acts of Assembly require the agency to issue temporary permits to certain qualified organizations so that permitted organizations may sell paper instant bingo, pull-tabs, and seal cards during a conference or convention under certain circumstances. The Department will amend *Charitable Gaming Regulations* (11 VAC 20-20) to implement these new statutory provisions.

Regulatory Stage		Emergency Rule
(check one box)	Proposed Rule	Revised Proposed
	🗆 Final Rule	🛛 Fast-Track Rule
Additional	Expedited Review Requested	Guidance Document
Description	Exempt Action	
Legal Authority	□ Action required by federal statute	Discretionary action
	Action required by state statute	
Deregulatory		
Component		
Expected Date	August 2023	

Action/Stage or Gu	Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)		
Not available	Not available		
Title of Proposed R	egulatory Action or Guidance Document		
2024 Virginia Coope	erative Spongy Moth Suppression Program	m (Guidance Document)	
Brief Overview			
The proposed chang	ges will update the dates within the guide	elines to reflect the dates relevant to the	
2024 Virginia Coope	erative Spongy Moth Suppression Program	n.	
Regulatory Stage		Emergency Rule	
(check one box)	Proposed Rule	Revised Proposed	
	🗆 Final Rule	Fast-Track Rule	
Additional	Expedited Review Requested	🛛 Guidance Document	
Description	Exempt Action		
Legal Authority	□ Action required by federal statute	Discretionary action	
	□ Action required by state statute		
Deregulatory			
Component			
Expected Date	August 2023		

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)			
Not available	Not available		
Title of Proposed Re	egulatory Action or Guidance Document		
Regulatory action to	expand the fire ant quarantine to incluc	le the counties of Charlotte, Dinwiddie,	
Halifax, Lunenburg,	and Sussex.		
Brief Overview			
The Commissioner w	will expand the regulated area establishe	d in <i>Virginia Imported Fire Ant</i>	
Quarantine for Enfo	rcement of the Virginia Pest Law (2 VAC !	5-315) to include the counties of	
Charlotte, Dinwiddie	e, Halifax, Lunenburg, and Sussex.		
Regulatory Stage	🗆 NOIRA	Emergency Rule	
(check one box)	Proposed Rule	Revised Proposed	
	🖾 Final Rule	Fast-Track Rule	
Additional	Expedited Review Requested	Guidance Document	
Description	I Exempt Action		
Legal Authority	□ Action required by federal statute	Discretionary action	
	Action required by state statute		
Deregulatory			
Component			
Expected Date	August 2023		

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Not available Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Regulatory action to repeal the Public Participation Guidelines promulgated by the Charitable Gaming Board **Brief Overview** Chapters 554 and 609 of the 2022 Acts of Assembly, in part, (i) authorize the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to prescribe regulations and conditions under which charitable gaming shall be conducted in the Commonwealth and (ii) reclassify the Charitable Gaming Board from a policy board to an advisory board. Previously, the authority to adopt regulations regarding the conduct of charitable gaming rested with the Charitable Gaming Board. In response to this 2022 legislation, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will repeal Public Participation Guidelines (11 VAC 15-13), which was promulgated by the Charitable Gaming Board.

Regulatory Stage		LI Emergency Rule
(check one box)	Proposed Rule	Revised Proposed
	🗆 Final Rule	🖾 Fast-Track Rule
Additional	Expedited Review Requested	Guidance Document
Description	Exempt Action	
Legal Authority	□ Action required by federal statute	Discretionary action
	Action required by state statute	
Deregulatory		
Component		
Expected Date	September 2023	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)			
Not available			
Title of Proposed R	egulatory Action or Guidance Document	1	
-	o promulgate Public Participation Guideli		
Brief Overview		5 5	
Chapters 554 and 6	09 of the 2022 Acts of Assembly, in part,	(i) authorize the Commissioner of the	
	culture and Consumer Services to prescri		
which charitable ga	ming shall be conducted in the Common	wealth and (ii) reclassify the Charitable	
Gaming Board from	a policy board to an advisory board. Pre	eviously, the authority to adopt	
regulations regardir	ng the conduct of charitable gaming reste	ed with the Charitable Gaming Board. In	
response to this 202	response to this 2022 legislation, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will		
promulgate Public Participation Guidelines (11 VAC 20-10).			
Regulatory Stage		Emergency Rule	
(check one box)	Proposed Rule	Revised Proposed	
	🗆 Final Rule	⊠ Fast-Track Rule	
Additional	Expedited Review Requested	Guidance Document	
Description	Exempt Action		
Legal Authority	□ Action required by federal statute	Discretionary action	
	Action required by state statute		
Deregulatory			
Component			
Expected Date	September 2023		

Action/Stage or Gu	Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)		
Not available	Not available		
Title of Proposed R	egulatory Action or Guidance Document		
Regulatory action to	o promulgate the regulation required by (Chapter 153 of the 2023 Acts of	
Assembly.			
Brief Overview			
Chapter 153 of the 2	2023 Acts of Assembly directs the Board	of Agriculture and Consumer Services to	
promulgate a regula	ation requiring tradespersons to provide	written notification to property owners	
for all plants propos	sed for installation that are included on the	ne Department of Conservation and	
Recreation's Virginia	a Invasive Plant Species list. The Board is	expected to initiate a regulatory action	
to promulgate this r	regulation in accordance with Chapter 15	3 of the 2023 Acts of Assembly.	
Regulatory Stage	🖾 NOIRA	Emergency Rule	
(check one box)	Proposed Rule	Revised Proposed	
	🗆 Final Rule	Fast-Track Rule	
Additional	Expedited Review Requested	Guidance Document	
Description	Exempt Action		
Legal Authority	□ Action required by federal statute	☑ Discretionary action	
	Action required by state statute		
Deregulatory			
Component			
Expected Date	October 2023		

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)

Not available

Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document

Regulatory action to amend a reference to the publisher of certain data used in the determination of class prices for producer milk

Brief Overview

The State Milk Commission is expected to amend *Regulations for the Control and Supervision of Virginia's Milk Industry* (2 VAC 15-20) to update the regulation's reference to the publisher of the average weekly earnings of workers in Virginia manufacturing industries.

Regulatory Stage	🗆 NOIRA	Emergency Rule
(check one box)	Proposed Rule	Revised Proposed
	Final Rule	🖾 Fast-Track Rule
Additional	Expedited Review Requested	Guidance Document
Description	Exempt Action	
Legal Authority	Action required by federal statute	Discretionary action
	□ Action required by state statute	
Deregulatory		
Component		
Expected Date	November 2023	

Action/Stage or Gu	idance Document Forum ID (if available)		
Not available	Not available		
Title of Proposed R	egulatory Action or Guidance Document	t	
Regulatory action to	o repeal Virginia Grade Standards for Bre	eder Swine	
Brief Overview			
The Commissioner of	of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Co	ommissioner) will repeal Virginia Grade	
		ulgated by the Director of the Division of	
	r 317 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly reassi		
•	ades, Marks, and Brands Law (Va. Code §		
grading of agricultural commodities, from the Director of the Division of Marketing to the			
Commissioner.			
Regulatory Stage		Emergency Rule	
(check one box)	Proposed Rule	Revised Proposed	
	🗆 Final Rule	🗵 Fast-Track Rule	
Additional	Expedited Review Requested	Guidance Document	
Description	Exempt Action		
Legal Authority	□ Action required by federal statute	☑ Discretionary action	
	□ Action required by state statute		
Deregulatory	This action will repeal a regulation that	is no longer used by industry.	
Component			
Expected Date	December 2023		

Action/Stage or Gu	idance Document Forum ID (if available	
Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Not available		
	egulatory Action or Guidance Document	1
	o repeal Virginia Grade Standards for Slau	
Brief Overview		-
The Commissioner of	of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Co	ommissioner) will repeal Virginia Grade
Standards for Slaug	hter and Feeder Lambs (2 VAC 5-280), wi	hich was promulgated by the Director of
the Division of Marl	keting. Chapter 317 of the 2020 Acts of A	Assembly reassigns authority for
administering the p	rovisions of the Grades, Marks, and Bran	ds Law (Va. Code § 3.2-4300 et seq.),
which deals with the grading of agricultural commodities, from the Director of the Division of		
Marketing to the Co	pmmissioner.	
Regulatory Stage		Emergency Rule
(check one box)	Proposed Rule	Revised Proposed
	🗆 Final Rule	🖾 Fast-Track Rule
Additional	Expedited Review Requested	Guidance Document
Description	Exempt Action	
Legal Authority	□ Action required by federal statute	Discretionary action
	□ Action required by state statute	
Deregulatory	This action will repeal a regulation that	is no longer used by the agency when
Component	grading slaughter or feeder lambs.	
Expected Date	December 2023	

Action/Stage or Gu	Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)		
Not available			
Title of Proposed R	egulatory Action or Guidance Document		
Regulatory action to	o repeal Breeder Sheep Grade Standards		
Brief Overview			
The Commissioner of	of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Co	mmissioner) will repeal Breeder Sheep	
Grade Standards (2	VAC 5-290), which was promulgated by t	he Director of the Division of Marketing.	
Chapter 317 of the 2	2020 Acts of Assembly reassigns authorit	y for administering the provisions of the	
Grades, Marks, and	Brands Law (Va. Code § 3.2-4300 et seq.), which deals with the grading of	
agricultural commo	dities, from the Director of the Division o	f Marketing to the Commissioner.	
Regulatory Stage		Emergency Rule	
(check one box)	Proposed Rule	Revised Proposed	
	🗆 Final Rule	⊠ Fast-Track Rule	
Additional	Expedited Review Requested	Guidance Document	
Description	Exempt Action		
Legal Authority	□ Action required by federal statute	☑ Discretionary action	
	□ Action required by state statute		
Deregulatory	This action will repeal a regulation that is no longer used by industry.		
Component			
Expected Date	December 2023		

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)				
Not available				
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document				
Regulatory action to amend Retail Food Establishment Regulations				
Brief Overview				
Board of Agriculture	e and Consumer Services is expected to a	mend Retail Food Establishment		
<i>Regulations</i> (2 VAC 5-585) to reflect the 2022 Food Code adopted by the U.S. Food and Drug				
Administration. VDACS is working in collaboration with Virginia Department of Health to update this				
regulation.				
Regulatory Stage		Emergency Rule		
(check one box)	🗵 Proposed Rule	Revised Proposed		
	🗆 Final Rule	Fast-Track Rule		
Additional	Expedited Review Requested	Guidance Document		
Description	I Exempt Action			
Legal Authority	□ Action required by federal statute	☑ Discretionary action		
	□ Action required by state statute			
Deregulatory				
Component				
Expected Date	December 2023			

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)				
Not available				
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document				
Regulatory action to amend Rules and Regulations Governing the Production, Processing, and Sale of				
Ice Cream, Frozen D	Desserts, and Similar Products			
Brief Overview				
The Board of Agricu	lture and Consumer Services is expected	to propose amendments to Rules and		
Regulations Governing the Production, Processing, and Sale of Ice Cream, Frozen Desserts, and Similar				
Products (2 VAC 5-5	10) to remove extraneous requirements,	clarify certain provisions, provide		
regulatory flexibility, update documents incorporated by reference, and enhance recordkeeping				
procedures to further protect public health.				
Regulatory Stage		Emergency Rule		
(check one box)	Proposed Rule	Revised Proposed		
	🗆 Final Rule	⊠ Fast-Track Rule		
Additional	Expedited Review Requested	Guidance Document		
Description	Exempt Action			
Legal Authority	□ Action required by federal statute	Discretionary action		
	□ Action required by state statute			
Deregulatory				
Component				
Expected Date	March 2024			

Action (Store or Cuidence Decument Forum ID (if queileble)			
Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Not available			
	egulatory Action or Guidance Document		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Regulatory action to amend 2 VAC 5-595			
Brief Overview			
	04 of the 2022 Acts of Assembly amondo	d in part provisions of the Virginia Food	
•		d, in part, provisions of the Virginia Food	
-	rding industrial hemp extracts intended f	•	
U U	sumer Services is expected to amend Re		
-	s that Contain Industrial Hemp Extracts II	• • •	
5-595) to reflect rel	evant provisions in Chapters 744 and 794	4 of the 2023 Acts of Assembly.	
Regulatory Stage	🗆 NOIRA	Emergency Rule	
(check one box)	Proposed Rule	Revised Proposed	
	🗆 Final Rule	⊠ Fast-Track Rule	
Additional	Expedited Review Requested	Guidance Document	
Description	Exempt Action		
Legal Authority	□ Action required by federal statute	Discretionary action	
	☑ Action required by state statute		
Deregulatory			
Component			
Expected Date	May 2024		

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Not available Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Regulatory action to reduce the fees established in Regulations Governing Pesticide Fees Charged by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Brief Overview		
Regulatory action to reduce the fees established in Regulations Governing Pesticide Fees Charged by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services		
the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services		
• •		
Brief Overview		
The fees prescribed in Regulations Governing Pesticide Fees Charged by the Department of Agriculture		
and Consumer Services (2 VAC 5-675) are utilized to operate VDACS's pesticide programs, which		
protect human health and the environment by ensuring the proper use of pesticides used to control		
pests that adversely affect crops, structures, health, and domestic animals. The Board of Agriculture		
and Consumer Services appointed a Regulatory Advisory Panel in May 2023 for the purpose of		
assisting the Board in reviewing the fee amounts established in 2 VAC 5-675 and is expected to		
propose amendments to the regulation to more closely align fee revenue with VDACS's pesticide		
programs' operating expenses.		
Regulatory Stage Image: NOIRA Image: Emergency Rule		
(check one box)		
🗆 Final Rule 🛛 🖾 Fast-Track Rule		
Additional Expedited Review Requested Guidance Document		
Description Exempt Action		
Legal Authority Action required by federal statute Discretionary action		
□ Action required by state statute		
Deregulatory This action is expected to reduce certain pesticide fees.		

Deregulatory Component

Expected Date

June 2024

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)				
Not available				
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document				
Regulatory action to amend Regulations for the Enforcement of the Noxious Weeds Law to reflect				
Chapter 153 of the 2	2023 Acts of Assembly			
Brief Overview				
Chapter 153 of the 2	2023 Acts of Assembly authorizes the Bo	ard of Agriculture and Consumer Services		
to adopt regulations	s governing the conditions under which a	a permit is required to move, transport,		
deliver, ship, offer f	or shipment, sell, or offer for sale into th	e Virginia any noxious weed or part		
	is expected to initiate a regulatory action			
Enforcement of the	Noxious Weeds Law (2 VAC 5-317) to est	ablish these conditions.		
Regulatory Stage	🖾 NOIRA	Emergency Rule		
(check one box)	Proposed Rule	Revised Proposed		
	🗆 Final Rule	Fast-Track Rule		
Additional	Expedited Review Requested	Guidance Document		
Description	Exempt Action			
Legal Authority	□ Action required by federal statute	Discretionary action		
	□ Action required by state statute			
Deregulatory				
Component				
Expected Date	June 2024			

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)				
Action 5747 / Stage	Action 5747 / Stage 9551 (proposed)			
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document				
Regulatory action to	o amend the noxious weed list			
Brief Overview				
The Noxious Weed	Advisory Committee, which assists in the	evaluation and risk-assessment of plant		
species that may be	e declared noxious weeds and makes reco	ommendations to the Commissioner of		
Agriculture and Con	nsumer Services regarding plant species t	hat should be listed or delisted as noxious		
weeds, recommend	Is that certain weed species be added to a	the noxious weeds list. The Board of		
Agriculture and Con	nsumer Services has determined it is now	appropriate to amend the current list of		
noxious weeds in Regulations for Enforcement of the Noxious Weeds Law (2 VAC 5-317).				
Regulatory Stage	□ NOIRA	Emergency Rule		
(check one box)	Proposed Rule	Revised Proposed		
	🖾 Final Rule	Fast-Track Rule		
Additional	Expedited Review Requested	Guidance Document		
Description	Exempt Action			
Legal Authority	□ Action required by federal statute	Discretionary action		
	□ Action required by state statute			
Deregulatory				
Component				
Expected Date	June 2024			