

**December 2024**

**Economic Impact Statements for Proposed Rules**

The corresponding proposed rule to each of the statements below may be viewed in its entirety in the December 20, 2024 *Louisiana Register*. Each *Louisiana Register* edition is published on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

<b>Promulgating Agency</b>	<b>Proposed Rule Title</b>	<b>Estimated Costs and/or Economic Benefits to Directly Affected Persons, Small Businesses or Nongovernmental Groups</b>
<b>Board of Veterinary Medicine</b>	<b>Licensing Procedures</b>	The proposed Rule change will help expedite the application review process and the issuance of licenses by the Board by ensuring all necessary supplemental documentation is submitted from the applicants in a more timely manner. The change in the application lifespan from two years to one year is possible due to several changes which have accelerated the overall application process including: the Board’s transition to an online application process; the establishment of an online testing option for the required state jurisprudence exam; the repeal of the letters of recommendation requirement for licensure; the repeal of the eight-week preceptorship program requirement for DVM licensure; the addition of three total Board-offered CAET trainings annually; and, the addition of a third testing window annually for the national exam (NAVLE) for DVMs.
<b>Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism</b>	<b>Cultural Resources</b>	The proposed Rule change will have minimal, if any, direct effects upon persons, small businesses, or non-governmental groups. Patrons of the state parks and historic sites could experience an increase in costs from the increase in certain rates and fees compared to the amounts paid currently.
<b>Board of Commerce and Industry</b>	<b>Industrial Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Program</b>	Firms participating in ITEP, with advance notification filed on or after February 21, 2024 or ITEP projects approved after February 21, 2024, to be governed by the proposed rules, shall no longer be subject to job creation or payroll thresholds requirements. Participating firms will likely enjoy administrative efficiencies and cost savings associated with diminished record keeping requirements.
<b>Department of Energy and Natural Resources</b>	<b>Class VI Injection Wells</b>	The proposed Rule change includes minor process and technical updates to reflect changes in operational best practices for the operators of Class VI wells and to reflect recent changes in relevant statutes. Some of these changes may result in additional costs to these operators. Any increase will be based on the particular status of their site and injection well, so quantification of any incremental increase in costs is indeterminable. Operators may expend additional resources to comply with enhanced requirements for environmental monitoring and reporting. These resources will generally be paid to technical and engineering companies that provide services to Louisiana Class VI operators.
<b>Department of Energy and Natural Resources</b>	<b>Class VI Injection Well Supplemental Rules—Fee Schedule</b>	The proposed Rule change is not anticipated to have any impact on costs and/or economic benefits to directly affected persons, small businesses, or non-governmental groups.
<b>Department of Energy and Natural Resources</b>	<b>Regulation of Solar Power Generation Facilities</b>	The proposed Rule affects any entity that is associated with ownership or operational control over solar facilities. The cost of obtaining the required decommissioning plan and financial security that is imposed on owners/operators of these facilities is difficult to quantify as the size and complexity of each facility varies. The decommissioning plan may provide economic benefits to the local community where a facility is sited, as new jobs may become available for engineers and construction crews.
<b>Department of Environmental Quality</b>	<b>Part 70 General Conditions</b>	There are no estimated costs and/or economic benefits to directly affected persons, small businesses or non-governmental groups anticipated as a result of the proposed Rule change.

Promulgating Agency	Proposed Rule Title	Estimated Costs and/or Economic Benefits to Directly Affected Persons, Small Businesses or Nongovernmental Groups
Office of the Governor	Jockey Fee Schedule	An economic benefit will exist to the extent that a jockey places second or worse in races with purses between \$5,000-\$9,999; places third or worse in races with purses between \$10,000-\$14,999; or is unplaced in races with a purse greater than \$15,000, due to the jockey's fee increasing by \$10 and an economic cost will exist due to the additional \$10 being deposited by trainers with the horsemen's bookkeeper to pay the losing mount fee of a jockey.
Office of the Governor	Ad Valorem Taxation	The effects of these new Rules on assessments of individual items of equivalent real and personal property will generally be lower in the aggregate in 2025 compared to the last year of actual data. Specific assessments of real and personal property will depend on the age and condition of the property subject to assessment. Taxpayers will be impacted based on the changes to the valuation guidelines for assessments as listed in Section II. The magnitude will depend on the taxable property for which they are liable. Regardless of the guidelines adopted by the Tax Commission, all taxpayers continue to have the right to appeal their assessments. Additionally, Small Businesses' real and personal property is assessed in the same manner as for all other property owners.
Board of Medical Examiners	Licensure and Certification	While it is true the IMLC licensees will be required to complete approximately four additional pages of paperwork and attest to an oath before a notary, it is not anticipated that the proposed amendments will have a material effect on costs, paperwork or workload of those affected by the amendments, the physicians licensed pursuant to the IMLC law, by the LSBME, nor on receipts and/or income of licensees, small businesses, or non-governmental groups.
Board of Medical Examiners	Marijuana for Therapeutic Use by Patients Suffering from a Debilitating Medical Condition	The only anticipated material effect for physicians licensed by the LSBME will be to reduce the physicians' costs, paperwork or workload vis a vis the LSBME as they will no longer have to pay LSBME for a registration to recommend marijuana to patients. It is not anticipated that the proposed amendments will have a material effect on costs, paperwork or workload of other health care providers licensed by the LSBME, nor on receipts and/or income of licensees, small businesses, or non-governmental groups.
Board of Medical Examiners	Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants	The proposed changes will increase costs for licensees, as they will be required to pay additional fees, dedicate more time to completing new examinations, and fulfill longer educational requirements. This includes the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy exam. Additionally, non-native English speakers will be required to pass the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). It is expected that by introducing higher requirements and increased supervision, the overall quality of healthcare services will improve. The proposed Rule changes may benefit patients and healthcare professionals by requiring updated standards of care, clarifying qualified continuing education, ensuring licensees are qualified to practice, and regulating emerging skilled interventions.
Board of Medical Examiners	Office-Based Surgery	There are no anticipated monetary effects on directly affected persons, small businesses, or non-governmental groups. However, there will be significant benefits to public health and safety as physicians adhere to the new regulations when performing office-based surgery. Physicians should already be conducting their office-based surgeries to meet this standard, so there should not be much financial change. However, offices may have to expend resources to comply if they do not already.
Department of Health	Facility Need Review	It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed Rule may result in a cost savings to nursing facilities since nursing facilities will not be required to pay license renewal fees during the time that its license is held in abeyance.

<b>Promulgating Agency</b>	<b>Proposed Rule Title</b>	<b>Estimated Costs and/or Economic Benefits to Directly Affected Persons, Small Businesses or Nongovernmental Groups</b>
<b>Department of Health</b>	<b>Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation Program Medication Attendant Certified</b>	It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed Rule will not result in costs to providers for FY 24-25, FY 25-26, and FY 26-27.
<b>Department of Health</b>	<b>Nursing Facilities—Licensing Standards</b>	It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed Rule may result in a cost savings to nursing facilities since nursing facilities will not be required to pay license renewal fees during the time that its license is held in abeyance.
<b>Department of Health</b>	<b>Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Injury</b>	This proposed Rule amends the provisions governing the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund Program. The amendments will change the word “Head” in “Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury” to “Brain” throughout the Rule; and will repeal Enabling Legislation, and Limitation of Liability. Implementation of this proposed Rule will not result in costs to providers and small businesses in FY 25, FY 26, and FY 27.
<b>Department of Health</b>	<b>Emergency Medical Transportation Services Licensing Standards</b>	There are no economic benefits or losses to ambulance providers as a result of this Rule. The changes are to update the rule to align with current EMS practices. The language has simply been revised to clarify the requirement.
<b>Louisiana Lottery Corporation</b>	<b>Open Meetings Accessibility; ADA</b>	There is no anticipated effect on costs or economic benefits of directly affected persons, small businesses, or nongovernmental groups.