

Existing law provides for an assessment to be levied and imposed of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 1¢ per pound on artificial crawfish bait to be paid by the crawfish farmers and harvesters.

Existing law provides for an assessment to be levied and imposed on each bag used to package live crawfish in the amount of 1¢ for bags holding less than 25 pounds of crawfish and 2¢ on bags holding 25 or more pounds, to be paid by crawfish farmers and harvesters who purchase the bags.

Existing law provides for an assessment of 1¢ per pound on crawfish tail meat sold in the state.

Prior law provided that the imposition or expiration of such assessments shall be subject to a referendum vote.

New law retains existing law provisions for the levy of certain assessments on artificial crawfish bait, on crawfish packaging bags, and crawfish tail meat but removes prior law referendum requirement for assessment purposes.

Existing law allows the assessment on crawfish tail meat to be collected at the first point of sale by the producer or distributor and remitted to the La. Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) by a certain date.

Prior law provided that such assessment be collected only if approved by a referendum vote.

New law retains existing law stipulation for crawfish tail meat assessment collection at the first point of sale but removes prior law referendum requirement for assessment purposes.

Prior law provided that members of the board be appointed for terms concurrent with that of the commissioner making the appointment. Further provided that members serve until their successors are appointed and sworn into office.

New law repeals prior law.

Prior law provided that no assessment be levied or imposed unless approved by a majority of farmers and harvesters voting in a referendum. Further provided for the effective date of the assessment which may be reimposed indefinitely in five-year increments. Additionally provided for certain criteria to be met for participation in the referenda as conducted by the LDAF and provides that reimposition assessments on artificial bait and bags be conducted separately.

New law repeals prior law.

Prior law provided for a referendum to abolish an assessment to be called by the board if  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the crawfish tail meat producers submit a petition for such purpose. Provided for the effective date of an approved or abolished assessment. Defined the criteria for referendum participation. Provided for the LDAF to conduct the referendum and for the notification of referendum results.

New law repeals prior law.

Effective August 1, 2014.

(Amends R.S. 3:556.6(A) and (B) and 556.14(A) and (H); Repeals R.S. 3:556.3(D), 556.7, and 556.14(B), (C), (E), (F), and (G))