



Virginia Department of Planning and Budget **Economic Impact Analysis**

2 VAC 5-50 Rules and Regulations Governing the Prevention, Control and Eradication of Brucellosis of Cattle in Virginia

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

June 9, 2015

Summary of the Proposed Amendments to Regulation

The Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Board) proposes to repeal this regulation.

Result of Analysis

The benefits likely exceed the costs for all proposed changes.

Estimated Economic Impact

The existing regulation provides the framework for the eradication of brucellosis in Virginia cattle. Brucellosis is an infectious disease of cattle that can also affect humans and was common in cattle in much of the 20th century. Through a structured and effective program, brucellosis was eradicated from cattle in all of the United States except around the Greater Yellowstone Area, where it remains in wildlife such as elk and bison and occasionally in cattle exposed to the wildlife. Through the testing of cattle and removal of those found to be positive for brucellosis, as required in the regulation, brucellosis was eradicated from Virginia, with the last known case occurring in the 1980s.

According to the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), since brucellosis in cattle was eradicated the tests and programs included in the regulation have not been utilized in at least 15 years. If brucellosis returns to the Commonwealth, VDACS has the ability to manage disease outbreaks and quarantine animals under statutory authority.¹ Thus, repealing this regulation will have no impact beyond the benefit of decreasing the chance that

¹ Source: Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

readers of the regulation would be misled concerning current requirements. Therefore the proposed repeal of the regulation will produce a small net benefit.

Businesses and Entities Affected

Repealing this regulation will have no impact beyond decreasing the likelihood that readers of the regulation would be misled concerning current requirements. When the regulation was utilized, it affected cattle ranches, stockyards, and slaughterhouses.

Localities Particularly Affected

The proposed repeal of this regulation does not disproportionately affect particular localities.

Projected Impact on Employment

The proposed repeal of this regulation does not affect employment.

Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property

The proposed repeal of this regulation does not significantly affect private property.

Small Businesses: Costs and Other Effects

The proposed repeal of this regulation does not significantly affect costs for small businesses.

Small Businesses: Alternative Method that Minimizes Adverse Impact

The proposed amendments will not adversely affect small businesses.

Real Estate Development Costs

The proposed amendments are unlikely to affect real estate development costs.

Legal Mandate

General: The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with § 2.2-4007.04 of the Code of Virginia and Executive Order Number 17 (2014). Section 2.2-4007.04 requires that such economic impact analyses determine the public benefits and costs of the proposed amendments. Further the report should include but not be limited to:

- the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the proposed regulatory action would apply,

- the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected,
- the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected,
- the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and
- the impact on the use and value of private property.

Small Businesses: If the proposed regulatory action will have an adverse effect on small businesses, § 2.2-4007.04 requires that such economic impact analyses include:

- an identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the proposed regulation,
- the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for small businesses to comply with the proposed regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparing required reports and other documents,
- a statement of the probable effect of the proposed regulation on affected small businesses, and
- a description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the proposed regulation.

Additionally, pursuant to § 2.2-4007.1, if there is a finding that a proposed regulation may have an adverse impact on small business, the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules (JCAR) is notified at the time the proposed regulation is submitted to the *Virginia Register of Regulations* for publication. This analysis shall represent DPB's best estimate for the purposes of public review and comment on the proposed regulation.

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