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MEMORANDUM

To: Michael Menefee
Program Manager
Charitable and Regulatory Programs
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

From: Justin I. Bell
Assistant Attorney General

Date: June 2, 2026

Subject: Public Participation Guidelines, 11 VAC 15-13.

I have reviewed the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services's proposed regulatory action for Public Participation Guidelines at 11 VAC 15-13. In my view, as counsel to the Department, it may proceed with this regulatory action in accordance with Chapters 554 and 609 of the 2022 Acts of Assembly. The regulations do not appear to conflict with the Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia, nor do they appear to conflict with any federal or state law currently in effect. Additionally, this regulatory action is necessary for the Department to comply with Chapters 554 and 609 of the 2022 Acts of Assembly,

so it is noncontroversial and therefore appropriate for the fast-track rulemaking process of § 2.2-4012.1 of the *Code of Virginia*.

This memorandum addresses legal matters only and is not intended to serve, nor should it be construed, as a comment for or against the merits of the proposed regulations.