

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE
EMERGENCY ORDER
2020-003

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, through Executive Order 20-52, the Governor of the State of Florida declared that Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) poses a risk to the entire State of Florida, and that because of this danger, a state of emergency exists in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Florida Department of Health recommend social distancing measures to control the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Florida, pursuant to Executive Order 20-52, Section 4, Subparagraph B, authorized State agencies to suspend the effect of any regulatory statute, rule, or order that would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 570.544(2), Florida Statutes, the Department shall enforce the provisions of Chapter 496, the Solicitation of Contributions Act, and specifically, Section 496.405(4)(b), Florida Statutes, related to the assessment of late fees for registration renewals; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 526.53, Florida Statutes, the Department shall enforce the provisions of Chapter 526, Part II, Sale of Brake Fluid, and specifically Section 526.51(1)(c), Florida Statutes, related to the assessment of late fees for permit renewals, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 531.41(2), Florida Statutes, the Department shall enforce the provisions of Chapter 531, the Weights and Measures Act of 1971, and specifically, Section 531.62(4), Florida Statutes, related to the assessment of late fees for permit renewals, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 570.544(2), Florida Statutes, the Department shall enforce the provisions of Chapter 559, Part IX, the Florida Motor Vehicle Repair Act, and specifically, Section 559.904(8), Florida Statutes, related to the assessment of late fees for registration renewals; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 570.544(2), Florida Statutes, the Department shall enforce the provisions of Sections 604.15-604.34, and specifically, Section 604.19, Florida Statutes, related to the assessment of late fees for license renewals; and

WHEREAS, the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak has caused financial hardships for many individuals and businesses in the State of Florida who are licensed and regulated by the Department.

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NOW THEREFORE, with the powers and authorities conferred by Article IV, Section 4, Florida Constitution, and Executive Order 20-52, I hereby declare the following:

1. The imposition of late fees pursuant to the following statutes is hereby suspended for thirty (30) days following the execution of this Order:

Sections 496.405(4)(b); 526.51(1)(c); 531.62(4); 559.904(8); and 604.19, Florida Statutes.

2. Unless specifically suspended in this Order or any other Emergency Order issued pursuant to the authority conferred by Article IV, Section 4, Florida Constitution, and Executive Order 20-52, all other portions of Chapters 496, 526, 531, 559, and 604, Florida Statutes, and the rules promulgated thereunder remain in effect.

THIS ORDER shall expire thirty (30) days from this date unless extended or rescinded by the Commissioner of Agriculture.

EXECUTED MARCH 20, 2020.



NICOLE FRIED
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

