

## DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Agriculture and Forestry  
Office of Forestry  
Forestry Commission

Forest Tree Seedling Prices  
(LAC 7:XXXIX.Chapter 203)

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B), the Administrative Procedure Act, and R.S. 3:4303, the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry finds that this emergency rule is required so that the Office of Forestry can recover production costs for seedling production beginning August 1, 1996, until adoption of a final rule can be completed. The seedling program is funded solely through monies obtained from seedling sales and cannot be operated on a deficit. The recent federal increase to the minimum wage will cause an increase in production costs which was not anticipated in budget projections. An imminent peril to public health, safety, and welfare would exist if the seedling program is forced to shut down due to its inability to pay production costs.

The effective date of this emergency rule is August 1, 1996, and it shall be in effect for 120 days or until the final rule takes effect through the normal promulgation process, whichever is shortest.

The full text of this emergency rule may be viewed in the notice of intent section of the July 1996 issue of the *Louisiana Register*, page 586.

Bob Odom  
Commissioner

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