COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE
EMERGENCY ORDER
2020-022

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 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, on May 8, 2020, through Executive Order 20-114, and on July 7, 2020, through Executive Order 20-166, the Governor extended Executive Order 20-52; and

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 482.032, Florida Statutes, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Department) shall enforce the provisions of Chapter 482, the Structural Pest Control Act, and specifically, Sections 482.071(2)(b), 482.072(2)(b), 482.111(3), 482.151(5), 482.151(6), 482.156(3), and 482.157(3), Florida Statutes, related to the assessment of late fees for licensure and certification renewals; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 487.011, Florida Statutes, the Department shall administer the provisions of Chapter 487, the Florida Pesticide Law, and specifically, Section 487.049(1), Florida Statutes, related to the assessment of late fees for license renewals; and

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

NOW THEREFORE, with the powers and authorities conferred by Article IV, Section 4, Florida Constitution, and Executive Order 20-52, as extended by Executive Orders 20-114 and 20-166, I hereby declare the following:

1. The imposition of late fees pursuant to the Sections 482.071(2)(b), 482.072(2)(b), 482.111(3), 482.151(5), 482.151(6), 482.156(3), and 482.157(3), Section 487.049(1), Florida Statutes, is hereby suspended for forty-five (45) days following the execution of this order. This action is intended to suspend the imposition of late fees for the respective statutory sections until August 22, 2020.

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 Orders 20-52, as extended by Executive Orders 20-114 and 20-166 or
any further extensions thereof, all other portions of Chapters 482, Florida Statutes, and the rules promulgated thereunder remain in effect.

THIS ORDER shall expire sixty (45) days from the date of this Order unless extended or rescinded by the Commissioner of Agriculture or upon the expiration or rescission of Executive Order 20-52, as extended by Executive Orders 20-114 and 20-166 or any further extensions thereof, whichever occurs first.

EXECUTED JULY 8, 2020.

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COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE