

# Agriculture Law - Title 3 - Liberian Code of Laws Revised

## TITLE 3

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### *AGRICULTURE LAW*

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#### ***Chapter 1. PLANT AND ANIMAL QUARANTINE***

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#### **§ 1. Title of Act.**

This Chapter shall be cited as "The Plant and Animal Quarantine Act."<sup>[1]</sup>

#### **§ 2. Purpose of Act.**

It shall be the purpose of this Chapter to prevent entry into Liberia of injurious plant and animal pests and diseases

existing in foreign countries; to prevent the spread of such pests and diseases should they become established in Liberia; and to regulate the export of plants and animals to conserve dwindling species and protect the food supplies of the Republic.<sup>[2]</sup>

### **§ 3. Definitions.**

For the purpose of this Chapter, "plants" shall be construed to mean living plant material of every description, and "animals" shall be construed to mean all non-human animal life.<sup>[3]</sup>

### **§ 4. Authority of Minister of Agriculture.<sup>[4]</sup>**

The Minister of Agriculture is authorized to:

1. Prohibit the importation into Liberia of plants or animals which are poisonous, noxious, or which produce deleterious drugs or which may be infested or infected with harmful pests or diseases; except that nothing in this Chapter shall be construed as prohibiting the importation of any of the above for scientific, medical, or educational purposes subject to such rules and regulations as the Minister may prescribe.
2. Promulgate regulations for control of the exportation of living plants and animals from Liberia in the interest of preserving dwindling species and conserving the natural resources of the country.
3. Promulgate reasonable rules and regulations pertaining to the control of the importation and exportation of living plants and animals of every description and in any form as are necessary in his opinion to protect the agriculture and food supplies of the Republic.
4. Establish domestic quarantines in defined areas when such action is deemed necessary in order to prevent the spread of any potentially dangerous pest or disease which may become established within the Republic by regulating or prohibiting the movement into, through, or out of the quarantined areas of any plant or animal or other material capable of spreading such pest or disease.
5. Provide methods for the destruction of any plants or animals growing or living in Liberia which are found to be infested or infected with pests or disease, the spread of which would seriously threaten the agriculture and food supplies of the Republic; provided, that if the presence of such pests or diseases can be clearly established as not due to the carelessness or negligence of the owner, reasonable compensation shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, be made available and paid out of the annual appropriation for the Ministry of Agriculture.<sup>[5]</sup>

6. Promulgate regulations requiring full registration with the Ministry of Agriculture of all scientists, scientific associations, corporations, companies or agents, as well as agents of foreign governments entering Liberia for the purpose of collecting scientific data or plant and animal material and requiring them to file with the Ministry copies of all data and samples of all plant material collected within the country.

7. Appoint official plant and animal quarantine inspectors and any other inspector considered necessary; designate which of the ports of entry enumerated in section 855 of the Revenue and Finance Law may be used for the importation and exportation of plants and animals; provide for the immediate destruction of plants and animals refused entry for non-compliance with rules and regulations prescribed under the authority of this Chapter; and take such other measures as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.<sup>[6]</sup>

**§ 5. Penalty for violation of Chapter.**

Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this Chapter or the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, or who shall forge, counterfeit, alter, deface, or destroy any application, permit, or certificate provided for in the rules and regulations shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. In construing and enforcing the provisions of this Chapter and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, the act or omission of any officer, agent, or other person acting for or employed by any corporation, firm, company, society, association, or other organized group shall in every case be deemed also to be the act or omission of the corporation, firm, company, society, association, or other organized group, as well as that of the person.<sup>[7]</sup>

**§ 6. Penalty for violation of Chapter by officials.**

Officials charged with the duty of enforcing the provisions of this Chapter who act in contravention thereof or fail to perform the duties required of them shall be dismissed from office and prosecuted under the provisions of sections 110-113 of the Penal Law.<sup>[8]</sup>

***Chapter 2. THE NATIONAL LIVESTOCK ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION ACT***

§ 20. Name of Act.

§ 21. Definition of "artificial insemination".

§ 23. Policies and objectives.

§ 24. Regional centers to be established.

§ 25. Penalties.

## **§ 20. Name of Act.**

This Chapter shall be cited as "The National Livestock Artificial Insemination Act."<sup>[9]</sup>

## **§ 21. Definition of "artificial insemination".**

"Artificial insemination" as used in this Chapter means the impregnation of any female animal by the introduction of the spermatozoa by mechanical means.<sup>[10]</sup>

## **§ 22. Establishment of National Livestock Bureau.**

The President is hereby authorized to create and establish a bureau within the Ministry of Agriculture to be named "The National Livestock Bureau".<sup>[11]</sup>

## **§ 23. Policies and objectives.**

The initial policies and primary objectives of the program to be carried out by the National Livestock Bureau shall be to execute to the fullest extent within the means at its disposal the intent of this Act by:

- (a) Establishing contacts with institutions already familiar with artificial insemination practices in tropical countries;
- (b) Development of a regional program which will lend itself to taking full advantage of the services of the scientist and utilization of semen when flown in under special refrigerated conditions;
- (c) Enforcing such sanitary measures through the veterinarian service of the Ministry of Agriculture as may be found necessary to sustain maximum health of animals and safe execution of the program;
- (d) Giving training in artificial insemination techniques and practices, offering technical assistance to those engaged in livestock production, and disseminating knowledge and acceptance of the artificial insemination program throughout the country.<sup>[12]</sup>

## **§ 24. Regional centers to be established.**

The Minister of Agriculture shall establish regional centers where animals will be serviced under the program carried out under this Act.<sup>[13]</sup>

## **§ 25. Penalties.**

Any person who contravenes any rule or regulation made by the Minister of Agriculture to carry out the purposes of this Act, or who fails to comply with the conditions made a part of any agreement or other instrument issued or entered into under any such rules or regulations, for which no penalty is expressly provided in the rules and regulations, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor. If any person is convicted of any offense as a result of a violation of any of the rules and regulations promulgated under this Act, the court may, in addition to or in lieu of the imposition of any fine or term of imprisonment, order that the whole or part of the livestock, in respect to which the offense was committed, be confiscated and forfeited to the government to be sold or otherwise disposed of in such manner as the Minister of Agriculture may prescribe.<sup>[14]</sup>

### ***Chapter 3. PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS***

#### **§ 40. Destruction of palm trees forbidden.**

#### **§ 40. Destruction of palm trees forbidden.**

Any person who cuts down or destroys any palm tree on land for which he does not possess a title in fee simple shall be subject to a penalty of five dollars recoverable before any justice of the peace or stipendiary magistrate for the use of the party suing.<sup>[15]</sup>

### ***Chapter 4. MISCELLANEOUS***

§ 60. Post to be erected on farm lands.

§ 61. National Agricultural and Commercial Fair

#### **§ 60. Posts to be erected on farm lands.**

Every owner of land devoted to agriculture shall keep erected at the angles of such land posts six inches square at the top, standing two feet above ground, and planted eighteen inches deep.<sup>[16]</sup>

#### **§ 61. National Agricultural and Commercial Fair.**

The President is hereby authorized and empowered to direct, through the Ministry of Agriculture, the holding of an annual National Agricultural Fair where exhibits may be made of machinery, insecticides, fertilizers, low-cost pre-fabricated housing and various agricultural products. Annual appropriations shall be provided to implement the objectives of this section.

The Minister of Agriculture shall issue rules and regulations which shall be effective under the conditions of section 36 of the Executive Law to govern the management and operation of the said National Agricultural Fair.<sup>[17]</sup>

### **Chapter XXV An Act Authorizing A National Agricultural Development Program**

WHEREAS, it is recognized that long range planning and programming in the use of limited financial resources and manpower is necessary for agricultural development; that planning of an agricultural development program must be integrated with specific plans for total economic development; that implementing organizations must be planned, created and staffed; that personnel must be trained to staff these organizations; that there exist foreign private companies, concessionaires, International Cooperating Organizations, and Government agencies in Liberia which are willing to provide assistance; that certain economic controls are necessary to permit development of private Liberian farming enterprises; and

WHEREAS, the Government desires to establish said program, now therefore; *It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia, in Legislature Assembled:*

**§ 1.** That from and immediately after the passage of this Act, the President of Liberia is hereby empowered to authorize the Minister of Agriculture to adopt and carry out appropriate measures for planning and implementing a National Agricultural Program aimed at improving, developing and stimulating agricultural production.

**§ 2.** Minister to execute program. In order to carry out the measures necessary for the execution of the program, the Minister of Agriculture, with the approval of the President, is authorized:

(a) To establish a National Committee composed of representatives of Government, foreign Agencies, and private industry for planning a National Agricultural Development Program;

(b) To act as Government's Registrar for farmers' cooperative;

(c) To establish, develop and supervise farmers' cooperative using available foreign technical assistance for providing credit, marketing, procurement, processing, development of land, management, and other services to private farmers under the Cooperative Society Law of 1938;

- (d) By virtue of his position as Chairman of the Produce Marketing Cooperative, to expand his organization and extend its activities together with the development of local cooperatives for providing technical assistance and services to farmers, and for marketing other agricultural commodities such as rice, fruits, and vegetables, etc., in order to provide an organized marketing outlet, and thus break the existing economic strangulation that keeps prices down and discourages production;
- (e) To regulate imports of rice and other commodities where necessary as a means of combating the economic control imposed by merchants which empower them to drive the prices of local rice and other products to farmers down;
- (f) To provide and supervise agriculture credit through the Agricultural Credit Corporation to local farmers' cooperatives for their use;
- (g) In coordination with the College of Agriculture and other local institutions and private industries, and with available foreign assistance, to organize and conduct practical training programs for farmers in farm management, cooperative management, and in technical aspects of farming;
- (h) To seek assistance of the countries to support these training programs;
- (i) To solicit foreign technical and financial assistance for the program, in coordination with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs<sup>[18]</sup> including surveys and studies for determining requirements for roads and harbors, etc., for forestry and agricultural development;
- (j) To organize and conduct with available assistance of foreign agencies and private industries, water and land resources surveys, for determining suitable areas and sites for specific crops, such as rice, and the requirements for development;
- (k) to complete and continue present forestry programs of boundary surveys, inventories, and management of these resources;
- (l) By virtue of this Act, to draft and propose for promulgation by Executive Order, necessary regulations to assure protection of the rights assumed in a free enterprise system of small farmers against unfair trade and business practices;
- (m) To encourage and assist foreign enterprises in vesting in agriculture and forestry industries in Liberia.

**§ 3.** This Act shall take effect immediately upon publication in handbills.

ANY LAW TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING  
Approved: March 23, 1966

***Chapter 5. REPEALERS***

§ 100. Statutes repealed.

**§ 100. Statutes repealed.**

The following statutes are hereby repealed:

Corn. L. (Sept., 1824), 2 Hub. 1344, 1349 (1st)

Acts 1839, Act regulating agriculture and internal improvement, sec. 2, 2 Hub. 1378

Acts 1841, Act to prevent the destroying of palm trees, 2 Hub. 1433

Acts 1843, Act for the relief of farmers, 2 Hub. 1448

1841 Digest, pt. I, Act pertaining to lands and reservations, apportionments and improvements of the same, sec. 7, 2 Hub. 1463

1841 Digest, pt. I, Act for the relief of farmers, 2 Hub. 1507

1841 Digest, pt. 1, Act to prevent the destroying of palm trees, 2 Hub. 1509

OBB 133, Public Domain, art. IV, sec. 4 except last sentence, sec. 6

OBB 167, Act for the relief of farmers

OBB 170, Act encouraging agriculture

L. 1868-69, 33, sec. 13



L. 1875-76, 24, sec. 5

L. 1900-01, 27 (1st)

L. 1905-06, 49 Rev. Stat. (adopted L. 1929, ch. VII), sec. 57-60

L. 1935-36, ch. XXVI

L. 1937, ch. II

[1] Prior legislation: L. 1949-50, ch. XXXIX, sec. 2; L. 1948-49, ch. IX; L. 1937, ch.' II.

[2] Prior legislation: L. 1949-50, ch. XXXIX, sec. 3.

[3] Prior legislation: L. 1949-50, ch. XXXIX, sec. 3.

[4] "Minister of Agriculture" substituted for "Secretary of Agriculture" by amendment proposed L.1971-72, An Act to Amend the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia with Respect to the Appellation of the Departments of Government and the Heads Thereof, § 1, approved December 31, 1971, and adopted at election held April 4, 1972. The words "and Commerce" were removed upon separation of Agriculture from Commerce and the Creation of a Separate Ministry of Commerce, see ch. 28 & 29 of An Act Adopting a New Executive Law and Repealing the Present Executive Law and Public Welfare Law, and Amending and Repealing Other Acts in Relation Thereto, Tit. 12, Liberian Code of Laws Rev., approved. May 11, 1972.

[5] "Ministry of Agriculture" substituted for "Department of Agriculture" by amendment proposed L. 1971-72, An Act to Amend the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia with Respect to the Appellation of the Departments of Government and the Heads Thereof, § 1, approved December 31, 1971, and adopted at election held April 4, 1972. See also New Executive Law, approved May 11, 1972, Tit. 12, ch. 28 & 29, LCLR, regarding separation of Commerce from Ministry of Agriculture and creation of Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

[6] Prior legislation: L. 1949-50, ch. XXXIX, sec. 4; L. 1948-49, ch. IX, t. II, sec. 3.

Cross reference: Other duties of Department of Agriculture and Commerce, see Executive L., Sec. 461. Requirement of permit from Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce for exportation of live animal, see Natural resources L., sec. 81.

[7] Prior legislation: L. 1949-50, ch. XXXIX, sec. 5; L. 1948-49, ch. IX, t. III, sec. 1.

[8] Prior legislation: L. 1949-50, ch. XXXIX, sec. 6; L. 1948-49, ch. IX, t. III, sec. 2.

[9] Prior registration.1953-54, ch. XI, sec. 1. 10

[10] Prior legislation: L. 1953-54, ch. XI, sec. 2.

[11] Prior legislation: L. 1953-54, ch. XI, sec. 3.

[12] Prior legislation: L. 1953-54, ch. XI, sec. 4

[13] Prior legislation: L. 1953-54, ch. XI, sec. 5.

[14] Prior legislation: L. 1953-54, ch. XI, sec. 6.

[15] Prior legislation: OBB 133, Public Domain, art. IV, sec. 4; 1841 Digest, pt. I, Act to prevent the destroying of palm trees, 2 Hub. 1509; Acts 1841, Act to prevent the destroying of palm trees, 2 Hub. 1433

[16] Prior legislation: OBB 133, Public Domain, art. IV, sec. 6; 1841 Digest, pt. I, Act pertaining lands and reservations, apportionments and improvements of the same, sec. 7, 2 Hub. 1463; to Com. L. (Sept., 1824), 2 Hub. 1344, 1349 (1st).

Cross Reference: Certain crops and irrigation may be prohibited if injurious to health, see Public Health and Safety L., sec. 701.

[17] Added. L. 1955-56, ch. IV, eff. Feb. 10, 1956.

[18] "Ministry" substituted for "Department" by amendment proposed L. 1971-72, An Act to Amend the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia, etc., § 1, approved December 31, 1971, and adopted at election held April 4, 1972.