

SENATE BILL REPORT

EHB 2523

AS PASSED SENATE, MARCH 2, 1994

Brief Description: Regulating custom slaughtering and custom meat facility licenses.

SPONSORS: Representatives Rayburn, Schoesler, Chappell, Chandler, Foreman, Hansen, R. Meyers and Mastin; by request of Department of Agriculture

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators M. Rasmussen, Chairman; Loveland, Vice Chairman; Anderson, Bauer, Morton, Newhouse and Snyder.

Staff: Bob Lee (786-7404)

Hearing Dates: February 22, 1994

BACKGROUND:

A person who is engaged in the business of slaughtering animals for the owner of the animals or in preparing uninspected meat for the consumption of the owner of the meat must be licensed by the Department of Agriculture. A violation of the laws governing the activities of such persons is a gross misdemeanor. The Director of Agriculture may suspend or revoke a license under certain circumstances.

The preparation and sale of poultry products are regulated by the Department of Agriculture under the Wholesome Poultry Products Act. A person who violates a provision of the act or rules adopted under the act is guilty of a misdemeanor. If a person commits a second violation within five years of being convicted of violating the act, the person is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

SUMMARY:

In addition to being able to suspend or revoke a license for custom slaughtering and custom meats, the Director of Agriculture may also establish conditions of probation for a designated period of time.

A new civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 per day of violation is established for violations of the laws governing custom slaughtering and custom meats and for violations of the Wholesome Poultry Products Act.

All violations, not just repeated violations within five years, are gross misdemeanors under the Poultry Products Act.

Either the civil penalty or the criminal penalty can be imposed but not both.

Appropriation: none

Revenue: none

Fiscal Note: none requested

TESTIMONY FOR:

This bill is identical to SB 6101 earlier approved by the committee and should be supported for same reasons.

TESTIMONY AGAINST: None

TESTIFIED: Bob Mead, Dept. of Agriculture (pro)