
HOUSE BILL 1522

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Taylor, Shea, G. Hunt, Buys, Griffey, Scott, Van De Wege, and Young

Read first time 01/22/15. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a state meat inspection program;
2 adding a new chapter to Title 16 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to
5 establish an intrastate meat inspection program in order to encourage
6 economic investment in the state's livestock industry and promote
7 economic development within our communities.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
9 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
10 otherwise.

11 (1) "Custom meat facility" means a facility operated by a person
12 under this chapter licensed to prepare meat food animals and meat
13 food birds for intrastate consumption in Washington.

14 (2) "Department" means the Washington state department of
15 agriculture.

16 (3) "License" means an annual authorization from the department
17 issued under this chapter that allows the holder to operate a custom
18 meat facility.

19 (4) "Meat food animal" includes the following animal
20 classifications: Bovine, porcine, ovine, equine, or hircine.

1 (5) "Meat food bird" includes chickens, ducks, geese, ratites
2 such as ostriches, emus, and rheas, and similar birds.

3 (6) "Official establishment" means an establishment operated for
4 the purpose of preparing meat for human consumption in compliance
5 with chapter 16.49 RCW.

6 (7) "Prepared" means smoked, salted, rendered, boned, cut, or
7 otherwise processed.

8 (8) "Uninspected meat" means the carcasses or carcass parts of
9 meat food animals or meat food birds that have been slaughtered by
10 the owner of the animals or birds.

11 (9) "Washington inspected meat" means the carcasses or carcass
12 parts of meat food animals or meat food birds that have been
13 inspected at establishments subject to inspection under chapter 16.49
14 RCW.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The department shall make available an
16 annual custom meat license that allows the holder to operate a custom
17 meat facility. Custom farm slaughterers must obtain a separate
18 license for each mobile unit.

19 (2) Application for a license or a license renewal must be made
20 on a form prescribed by the department and accompanied by a twenty-
21 five dollar license fee. The application must include:

22 (a) The full name and address of the applicant, and if the
23 applicant is a partnership or corporation, the full name and address
24 of each partner or officer;

25 (b) The physical location address of each establishment or
26 facility to be licensed;

27 (c) The name and address of a resident of this state authorized
28 to accept legal notices for the applicant; and

29 (d) Any other information prescribed by the department.

30 (3) Initial issuance of a license requires a prelicense
31 inspection by the department for compliance with this chapter and
32 rules adopted under this chapter. A license may only be issued after
33 an applicant is found to be in substantial compliance with this
34 chapter and rules adopted under this chapter.

35 (4) Unless designated otherwise by the department, licenses
36 issued under this chapter expire June 30th of each year.

37 (5) Licenses issued under this chapter are not transferrable.

1 (6) All license fees collected under this section must be
2 deposited in the meat inspection account created in section 9 of this
3 act.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department shall enforce and carry out
5 the provisions of this chapter and may adopt rules necessary to carry
6 out its purpose. Rules adopted under this chapter may include, but
7 are not limited to:

8 (1) Requirements for construction, equipment, cleaning,
9 sanitation, and sanitary practices related to a custom meat facility
10 to ensure sanitary operations;

11 (2) Requirements for identification or tagging of meat food
12 animals slaughtered by licensees to maintain identification of the
13 animal;

14 (3) Requirements for handling and storing meats and meat
15 products;

16 (4) Requirements for labeling meat and meat products; and

17 (5) Requirements for slaughtering and processing meat food birds
18 by licensees.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Inspected meat and meat products prepared
20 for public sale must be kept separated from meat and meat products
21 prepared for private individuals.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The department may investigate any
23 violation or possible violation of this chapter or any rule adopted
24 under this chapter. To assist in such an investigation, the
25 department may issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses
26 or to compel production of records or documents anywhere in the
27 state.

28 (2) The department may also inspect the mobile unit of any custom
29 farm slaughterer or custom meat facility at any reasonable time to
30 determine compliance with this chapter and the rules adopted under
31 this chapter.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The department may deny, suspend, or
33 revoke any license required under this chapter if the department
34 determines that an applicant or licensee has committed any of the
35 following acts:

1 (a) Refused, neglected, or failed to comply with the provisions
2 of this chapter, the rules adopted under this chapter, or any lawful
3 order of the department;

4 (b) Refused, neglected, or failed to keep and maintain records
5 required under this chapter, or rules adopted under this chapter, or
6 to make the records available to the department on request; or

7 (c) Refused the department access to any custom meat facilities
8 or parts of the facilities for the purpose of carrying out the
9 provisions of this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter.

10 (2) A person may request a hearing under chapter 34.05 RCW upon
11 receipt of notice by the department to deny, suspend, or revoke a
12 license.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** (1) It is unlawful for any person to:

14 (a) Operate a custom meat facility in this state without first
15 obtaining a license from the department under this chapter; and

16 (b) Interfere with the department in the performance of the
17 department's duties under this chapter or the rules adopted under
18 this chapter.

19 (2) Any person who fails to comply with this chapter or the rules
20 adopted under this chapter may be subject to a civil penalty in an
21 amount of not more than one thousand dollars per violation per day.
22 Each violation is a separate and distinct offense.

23 (3) All moneys collected for civil penalties under this chapter
24 must be deposited in the meat inspection account, created in section
25 9 of this act, to be used solely for the implementation of this
26 chapter.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The meat inspection account is created in
28 the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from sections 3 and
29 8 of this act must be deposited into the account. Expenditures from
30 the account may be used only for the purposes of implementing this
31 chapter. Only the director of the department or the director's
32 designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is
33 subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an
34 appropriation is not required for expenditures.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** (1) This chapter applies only to
36 livestock produced in Washington and the meat food animal products

1 and meat food bird products produced and consumed from Washington-
2 produced livestock.

3 (2) Nothing in this chapter prohibits the operator of a custom
4 meat facility from also being licensed to prepare and sell inspected
5 meat out-of-state.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Chapter 34.05 RCW governs the rights,
7 remedies, and procedures respecting the administration of this
8 chapter, including rule making, assessment of civil penalties,
9 emergency actions, and license suspension, revocation, or denial.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** Any federal law, rule, order, or other
11 act by the federal government violating the provisions of this
12 chapter is hereby declared to be invalid in this state, is not
13 recognized by and is specifically rejected by this state, and is
14 considered as null and void and of no effect in this state.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** The provisions of this chapter relating
16 to the sale of inspected meat in custom meat facilities do not
17 supersede or restrict the authority of any county or any city to
18 adopt ordinances that are more restrictive for the handling and sale
19 of inspected meat than those provided in this chapter.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** Sections 1 through 13 of this act
21 constitute a new chapter in Title 16 RCW.

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