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H.274

Introduced by Representatives Young of Greensboro, Fegard of Berkshire, and
Strong of Albany

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Agriculture; preparation of livestock; on-farm slaughter

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to amend the requirements for on-farm slaughter of livestock to allow the farmer who raised the livestock to slaughter the animal. The bill would also allow multiple persons to have an ownership interest in the livestock for slaughter. In addition, the bill would repeal the sunset of the on-farm slaughter authority.

An act relating to the regulation of on-farm slaughter

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. § 3311a is amended to read:

§ 3311a. LIVESTOCK; INSPECTION; LICENSING; PERSONAL
SLAUGHTER; ITINERANT SLAUGHTER

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Assist in the slaughter of livestock” means the act of slaughtering or butchering an animal and shall not mean the farmer’s provision of a site on

1 the farm for slaughter, provision of implements for slaughter, or the service of
2 disposal of the carcass or offal from slaughter.

3 (2) "Sanitary conditions" means a site on a farm that is:

4 (A) clean and free of contaminants; and

5 (B) located or designed in a way to prevent:

6 (i) the occurrence of water pollution; and

7 (ii) the adulteration of the livestock or the slaughtered meat.

8 (b) The requirement for a license under section 3306 of this title or for
9 inspection under this chapter shall not apply to the slaughter by an individual
10 of livestock that the individual raised for the individual's exclusive use or for
11 the use of members of his or her household and his or her nonpaying guests
12 and employees.

13 (c) The requirement for a license under section 3306 of this title or for
14 inspection under this chapter shall not apply to the slaughter of livestock that
15 occurs in a manner that meets all of the following requirements:

16 (1) ~~An individual purchases~~ One or more individuals purchase livestock
17 from a farmer that raised the livestock.

18 (2) The farmer is registered with the Secretary, on a form provided by
19 the Secretary, as selling livestock for slaughter under this subsection.

20 (3) The slaughter is performed by the individual who purchased the
21 livestock ~~performs the act of slaughtering the livestock~~ or by the farmer who

1 sold the livestock, provided that the farmer is qualified to conduct the
2 slaughter.

3 (4) The act of slaughter occurs, after approval from the farmer who sold
4 the livestock, on a site on the farm where the livestock was purchased.

5 (5) The slaughter is conducted under sanitary conditions.

6 ~~(6) The farmer who sold the livestock to the individual does not assist in~~
7 ~~the slaughter of the livestock.~~

8 ~~(7)~~ No more than the following number of livestock per year are
9 slaughtered under this subsection:

10 (A) 15 swine;

11 (B) five cattle;

12 (C) 40 sheep or goats; or

13 (D) any combination of swine, cattle, sheep, or goats, provided that
14 no more than 6,000 pounds of the live weight of livestock are slaughtered per
15 year.

16 ~~(8)~~(7) The farmer who sold the livestock to the individual maintains a
17 record of each slaughter conducted under this subsection and reports quarterly
18 to the Secretary, on a form provided by the Secretary, on or before April 15 for
19 the calendar quarter ending March 31, on or before July 15 for the calendar
20 quarter ending June 30, on or before October 15 for the calendar quarter
21 ending September 30, and on or before January 15 for the calendar quarter

1 ending December 31. If a farmer fails to report slaughter activity conducted
2 under this subsection, the Secretary, in addition to any enforcement action
3 available under this chapter or chapter 1 of this title, may suspend the authority
4 of the farmer to sell animals to an individual for slaughter under this
5 subsection.

6 (9)(8) The slaughtered livestock may be halved or quartered by the
7 individual who purchased the livestock but solely for the purpose of transport
8 from the farm.

9 (d) The requirement for a license under section 3306 of this title or for
10 inspection under this chapter shall not apply to an itinerant slaughterer engaged
11 in the act of itinerant livestock slaughter or itinerant poultry slaughter.

12 (e) An itinerant slaughterer may slaughter livestock owned by a person on
13 the farm where the livestock was raised under the following conditions:

14 (1) the meat from the slaughter of the livestock is distributed only as
15 whole ~~or~~, half, or quartered carcasses to the person who owned the animal for
16 his or her personal use or for use by members of his or her household or
17 nonpaying guests; and

18 (2) the slaughter is conducted under sanitary conditions.

19 (f) A carcass or offal from slaughter conducted under this section shall be
20 disposed of according to the requirements under the required agricultural
21 practices for the management of agricultural waste.

1 Sec. 2. REPEAL OF SUNSET OF ON-FARM SLAUGHTER AUTHORITY

2 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 13, as amended by 2016 Acts and
3 Resolves No. 98, Sec. 2, (sunset of authority to conduct on-farm slaughter) is
4 repealed.

5 Sec. 3. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES; ON-FARM SLAUGHTER

6 On or before January 15, 2020, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and
7 Markets shall submit to the House Committee on Agriculture and Forestry and
8 the Senate Committee on Agriculture recommended best management
9 practices for the conduct of on-farm slaughter under 6 V.S.A. § 3311a(c). The
10 best management practices shall be designed to be reasonable to implement
11 and based on the scale or size of the farm at which slaughter is conducted. The
12 Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall consult with interested
13 parties, including farmers engaged in on-farm slaughter, in developing the
14 recommended best management practices required by this section.

15 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

16 This act shall take effect on passage.