

H.420

An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill by adding two new sections to read as follows:

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

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

(1) A person or persons purchases livestock from a farmer who raised the livestock.

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

(3) The individual or individuals who purchased the livestock performs the act of slaughtering the livestock, as the owner of the livestock.

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

(5) The slaughter is conducted under sanitary conditions.

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

(7) Not more than the following number of livestock per year are slaughtered under this subsection:

- (A) ~~15~~ 30 swine;
- (B) ~~five~~ 10 cattle;
- (C) ~~40~~ 80 sheep or goats; or

(D) any combination of swine, cattle, sheep, or goats, provided that not more than ~~6,000~~ 12,000 pounds of the live weight of livestock are slaughtered per year.

(8) The farmer who sold the livestock to the individual or individuals maintains a record of each slaughter conducted under this subsection and reports quarterly to the Secretary, on a form provided by the Secretary, on or before April 15 for the calendar quarter ending March 31, on or before July 15 for the calendar quarter ending June 30, on or before October 15 for the calendar quarter ending September 30, and on or before January 15 for the calendar quarter ending December 31. If a farmer fails to report slaughter activity conducted under this subsection, the Secretary, in addition to any enforcement action available under this chapter or chapter 1 of this title, may suspend the authority of the farmer to sell animals to an individual or individuals for slaughter under this subsection.

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

(10) The livestock is slaughtered according to a humane method, as that term is defined in subdivision 3131(6) of this title.

Sec. 1b. OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL REPORT ON  
LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER UNDER ANIMAL SHARE  
CONTRACTS

The Office of Legislative Counsel, in consultation with the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and other interested parties, shall review federal and State law regarding whether the State may exempt the slaughter of livestock and provision of meat under an animal share contract from the license and inspection requirements of 6 V.S.A. chapter 204. On or before December 1, 2021, the Office of Legislative Counsel shall submit its findings to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the House Committee on Agriculture and Forestry. The findings shall include proposed draft legislation.