

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1290**

Introduced by

Representatives Meyer, Nicholas, Froelich

Senators Kinnoin, Solberg, Wanzek

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 36 of the North Dakota Century  
2 Code, relating to a state meat inspection program; and to provide a penalty.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1.** A new chapter to title 36 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and  
5 enacted as follows:

6 **Definitions.** In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 7 1. "Adulterated" means a whole carcass, part of a carcass, or meat food product:
- 8 a. That bears or contains a poisonous or harmful substance that may render it  
9 injurious to health;
  - 10 b. That bears or contains a chemical pesticide that is unsafe under the federal  
11 Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act [21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.];
  - 12 c. That bears or contains a food or color additive that is unsafe under the federal  
13 Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act [21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.];
  - 14 d. That contains a filthy, putrid, or decomposed substance or is for any other  
15 reason unfit for human food;
  - 16 e. That has been prepared, packed, or held under unsanitary conditions;
  - 17 f. That is wholly or partly the product of an animal that has died in a manner  
18 other than slaughter;
  - 19 g. The container of which is wholly or partly composed of a poisonous or harmful  
20 substance that may make the contents harmful to health;
  - 21 h. That has been intentionally subjected to radiation, unless the use of the  
22 radiation conformed with a regulation or exemption in effect under the federal  
23 Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act [21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.];

- 1           i.    That is damaged or inferior and that damage or inferiority has been  
2                    concealed; or
- 3           j.    That has had a substance added to it or mixed or packed with it so as to  
4                    increase its bulk or weight, or make it appear better than or of greater value  
5                    than it is.
- 6           2.    "Animal" includes cattle, swine, sheep, goats, farmed cervidae, llama, ratite,  
7                    horses, equines, and other large domesticated animals, not including poultry.
- 8           3.    "Commissioner" means the commissioner of agriculture.
- 9           4.    "Container" includes a can, pot, tin, canvas, or other receptacle containing a meat  
10                    food product.
- 11          5.    "Custom processing" means slaughtering, eviscerating, dressing, or processing an  
12                    animal or processing meat products for the owner of the animal or of the meat  
13                    products, if all meat products derived from the custom operation are returned to the  
14                    owner of the animal or of the meat products.
- 15          6.    "Intrastate commerce" means commerce within this state.
- 16          7.    "Meat food product" means a product usable as human food and made wholly or in  
17                    part from meat or a portion of an animal carcass. The term does not include any  
18                    product that contains meat or other portions of the carcasses of animals in a  
19                    relatively small proportion or which historically have not been considered by  
20                    consumers as a product of the meat food industry, and which is not represented as  
21                    a meat food product.
- 22          8.    "Prepared" means slaughtered, canned, salted, rendered, boned, cut up, or  
23                    otherwise manufactured or processed.

24           **Inspectors - Appointments - Duties.**

- 25          1.    The commissioner shall appoint inspectors to examine and inspect meat food  
26                    products prepared solely for intrastate commerce in a slaughtering, meat canning,  
27                    salting, packing, or similar establishment. The inspections must take place at any  
28                    time during which the slaughtering of animals or the preparation of food products is  
29                    being conducted. Upon completing an inspection, the inspector shall mark, stamp,  
30                    tag, or label the product "North Dakota inspected and passed" if it is unadulterated

- 1           or as "North Dakota inspected and condemned" if the product is found to be  
2           adulterated.
- 3           2. The commissioner shall appoint inspectors to examine and inspect each  
4           slaughtering, meat canning, salting, packing, or similar establishment in which  
5           meat food products are prepared solely for intrastate commerce. The  
6           commissioner shall adopt rules of sanitation applicable to these establishments. If  
7           any facility does not meet the sanitary conditions required by the commissioner,  
8           the commissioner may not allow any meat food product from that facility to be  
9           labeled, marked, stamped, or tagged as "North Dakota inspected and passed".
- 10          3. Meat food products inspected and passed under this chapter may be sold at retail  
11          in this state.
- 12          4. Neither the commissioner, nor any inspector appointed by the commissioner, may  
13          undertake any activity that is duplicative of an activity performed by meat  
14          inspectors of the United States department of agriculture.

15          **Access by inspectors - Penalty.**

- 16          1. The commissioner and any authorized representative of the commissioner have  
17          access to:
- 18           a. Any place where food or any other product, the manufacture, sale, use, or  
19           transportation of which is restricted, regulated, or prohibited by a law of this  
20           state, is or may be manufactured, prepared, stored, sold, used, transported,  
21           offered for sale or transportation, or possessed with intent to use, sell, or  
22           transport;
- 23           b. Any place where an animal is pastured or stabled;
- 24           c. Any car or other carriage used to transport a meat food product or an animal;  
25           and
- 26           d. Any place where food is or may be cooked, prepared, sold or kept for sale to  
27           or for the public or distributed as a part of the compensation of an employee  
28           or agent; and
- 29           e. Any place where a meat food product may be manufactured, sold, used,  
30           offered for sale or transportation, or possessed with intent to use, sell, or  
31           transport.

- 1           2. The commissioner and any authorized representative of the commissioner may  
2           inspect any container believed to hold food, a food ingredient, or some other  
3           product, the manufacture, use, sale, or transportation of which is restricted,  
4           regulated, or forbidden by state law, and may take samples from it for analysis.
- 5           3. It is a class A misdemeanor for any person to obstruct entry or inspection under  
6           this chapter or to fail, upon request, to assist in an inspection authorized by this  
7           chapter.

8           **Marks and labels.**

- 9           1. If a meat food product which is inspected and marked "North Dakota inspected and  
10          passed" is being placed or packed in a container, the person preparing the product  
11          shall attach to the container, under supervision of an inspector, a label indicating  
12          that the product has been "North Dakota inspected and passed". An inspection  
13          under this chapter is not complete until the product has been sealed or enclosed in  
14          the container, under the supervision of an inspector.
- 15          2. A meat food product inspected under this chapter and found not to be adulterated  
16          must bear, directly or on its container, a legible label or official mark as required by  
17          the commissioner.
- 18          3. The commissioner shall prescribe by rule the style and size of type to be used in  
19          labeling meat under this chapter and standards of identity, composition, and fill of  
20          container for meat food products inspected under this chapter, but the standards  
21          must be consistent with those established under federal law.

22           **False or misleading marks, labels, and containers.** A person may not sell in  
23 intrastate commerce any meat food product subject to inspection under this chapter under a  
24 name, mark, or label which is false or misleading, or in a container of a misleading form or size.  
25 If the commissioner has reason to believe that a mark, label, or container is false or misleading,  
26 the commissioner may direct that its use be withheld unless the mark, label, or container is  
27 modified in a manner approved by the commissioner. If the person using or proposing to use  
28 the mark, label, or container does not accept the determination of the commissioner, the person  
29 may request a hearing. The commissioner may direct that the mark, label, or container not be  
30 used pending a hearing and final determination by the commissioner. A determination by the

1 commissioner is conclusive unless the person adversely affected appeals to the district court  
2 within thirty days after receiving the notice of final determination.

3 **Prohibitions.** A person may not:

- 4 1. Slaughter an animal or prepare an article usable as human food at any  
5 establishment preparing articles solely for intrastate commerce, unless the person  
6 complies with this chapter;
- 7 2. Sell, transport, offer for sale or transportation, or receive for transportation, in  
8 intrastate commerce any article that is usable as human food and which is  
9 adulterated or misbranded or any article that has not been inspected and passed  
10 under this chapter; or
- 11 3. Alter an article that is usable as human food while the article is being transported in  
12 intrastate commerce or held for sale after transportation, if the alteration is  
13 intended to cause or has the effect of causing the article to be adulterated or  
14 misbranded.

15 **Official marks and certificates - Required authorization.** A person may not:

- 16 1. Cast, print, or otherwise make a device containing an official mark, simulation of an  
17 official mark, label bearing a mark or simulation, or form of official certificate or  
18 simulation, without authorization from the commissioner;
- 19 2. Forge an official device, mark, or certificate;
- 20 3. Use a real or simulated official device, mark, or certificate, or alter, detach, deface,  
21 or destroy an official device, mark, or certificate, without authorization from the  
22 commissioner;
- 23 4. Fail to use an official device, mark, or certificate if appropriate;
- 24 5. Knowingly possess, without promptly notifying the commissioner, a counterfeit,  
25 simulated, forged, or improperly altered official certificate, device, or label, or a  
26 whole carcass or part of a carcass bearing a counterfeit, simulated, forged, or  
27 improperly altered official mark;
- 28 6. Knowingly make a false statement in a certificate; or
- 29 7. Knowingly represent falsely that an article has been inspected and passed, or  
30 exempted, under this chapter.

1           **Horse meat - Requirements.** A person may not sell, transport, offer for sale or  
2 transportation, or receive for transportation in intrastate commerce whole carcasses or parts of  
3 carcasses of horses, mules, or other equines or meat food products derived from them, unless  
4 they are plainly and conspicuously marked, labeled, or otherwise identified to show the kinds of  
5 animals from which they were derived. The commissioner by rule may require that the  
6 preparation of whole equine carcasses, parts of equine carcasses, and equine meat food  
7 products take place in establishments separate from those in which cattle, sheep, swine, or  
8 goats are slaughtered or in which their carcasses, parts of their carcasses, or meat food  
9 products are prepared.

10           **Bribery.** A person may not give or receive anything of value to influence the  
11 performance of an inspector under this chapter.

12           **Individual and custom processing.**

- 13           1. This chapter does not apply to an individual processing the individual's own  
14 animals and the individual's preparation and transportation in intrastate commerce  
15 of the whole carcasses, parts of carcasses, and meat food products provided the  
16 animals are for the exclusive use of the individual, members of the individual's  
17 household, the individual's nonpaying guests, and employees.
- 18           2. This chapter does not apply to the custom processing by a person of animals  
19 delivered by the owner for processing, and the preparation or transportation in  
20 intrastate commerce of the whole carcasses, parts of carcasses, and meat food  
21 products of the animals, provided that the products are to be used exclusively in  
22 the household of the animal's owner by the owner and members of the owner's  
23 household, nonpaying guests, and employees.
- 24           3. A custom processor may not engage in the business of buying or selling whole  
25 carcasses, parts of carcasses, or meat food products of animals usable as human  
26 food unless the whole carcasses, parts of carcasses, or meat food products have  
27 been inspected and passed and are identified as inspected and passed by the  
28 commissioner or the United States department of agriculture.

29           **Storing and handling conditions.** The commissioner shall adopt rules regarding the  
30 manner in which all whole carcasses, parts of carcasses, and meat food products of animals  
31 usable as human food and subject to this chapter must be stored, handled, and transported.

1           **Articles not intended as human food.** The commissioner may not provide inspection  
2 under this chapter at an establishment for the slaughter of animals or the preparation of  
3 carcasses or parts or products of animals which are not intended for use as human food.  
4 Before these articles are offered for sale or transportation in intrastate commerce, they must be  
5 denatured or otherwise identified, as prescribed by rules of the commissioner, to deter their use  
6 for human food, unless they are naturally inedible by humans. A person may not buy, sell,  
7 transport, offer for sale or transportation, or receive for transportation, in intrastate commerce,  
8 any carcasses, parts of carcasses, or meat food products of animals which are not intended for  
9 use as human food, unless the articles are denatured or otherwise identified.

10           **Records.** The following persons shall keep records that fully and accurately disclose  
11 the transactions described:

- 12           1. A person in the business of slaughtering animals or preparing, freezing, packaging,  
13           or labeling animal carcasses, parts, or products of carcasses for use as human or  
14           animal food.
- 15           2. A person buying, selling, transporting, or storing animal carcasses or parts or  
16           products of animal carcasses.
- 17           3. A person rendering or buying, selling, or transporting dead, dying, disabled, or  
18           diseased animals or parts of the carcasses of animals that died other than by  
19           slaughter.

20           **Records - Examination.** Upon notice by the commissioner, any person subject to the  
21 recordkeeping requirements of this chapter shall give the commissioner and the United States  
22 department of agriculture access to their places of business at all reasonable times and an  
23 opportunity to examine the facilities, inventory, and records of the business, to copy business  
24 records, and to take reasonable samples of their inventory upon payment of the fair market  
25 value of the samples.

26           **Records - Retention.** Any person subject to the recordkeeping requirements of this  
27 chapter shall maintain the records for the period prescribed by the commissioner.

28           **Registration of business.** A person may not engage in intrastate business as a meat  
29 broker, renderer, or animal food manufacturer; a wholesaler of animal carcasses, carcass parts  
30 or products of carcasses, intended for human food or other purposes; a public warehouse  
31 operator storing carcasses or parts of carcasses of animals in or for intrastate commerce; or a

1 buyer, seller, or transporter of dead, dying, disabled, or diseased animals, or parts of the  
2 carcasses of animals that died other than by slaughter, unless the person first provides the  
3 commissioner with the person's name, the address of each place of business under which the  
4 person conducts business, and all trade names under which, the person conducts business.

5 **Dead, dying, disabled, or diseased animals - Rules.** The commissioner shall adopt  
6 rules to ensure that dead, dying, disabled, or diseased animals are not used as human food.

7 **Cooperation with federal government.** The commissioner shall cooperate with the  
8 United States department of agriculture to develop and administer the state meat inspection  
9 program provided for under this chapter and to ensure that its requirements are at least equal to  
10 those imposed by federal law. The commissioner may accept, from the United States  
11 department of agriculture, advice and assistance in planning and otherwise developing the state  
12 meat inspection program; technical and laboratory assistance and training, including necessary  
13 curricular and instructional materials and equipment; and financial and other assistance for the  
14 administration of the program.

15 **Refusal or withdrawal of inspection.**

16 1. For the length of time the commissioner considers necessary to carry out the  
17 purposes of this chapter, the commissioner may refuse to provide, or withdraw,  
18 inspection services from an establishment if after a hearing the commissioner  
19 determines that the recipient or potential recipient is unfit to engage in any  
20 business requiring inspection under this chapter because the recipient, potential  
21 recipient, or anyone responsibly connected with the recipient or potential recipient  
22 has been convicted of:

23 a. An offense determined by the commissioner to have a direct bearing on the  
24 person's ability to serve the public in a business requiring inspection under  
25 this chapter, or the commissioner determines the person is not sufficiently  
26 rehabilitated under section 12.1-33-02.1;

27 b. More than one violation of a law based on the acquisition, handling, or  
28 distributing of unwholesome, mislabeled, or deceptively packaged food; or

29 c. Fraud in connection with transactions involving food.

30 2. For the purpose of this section anyone responsibly connected with a business  
31 means an individual who is a partner, officer, director, holder, or owner of ten

1                   percent or more of its voting stock or an employee in a managerial or executive  
2                   capacity.

3                   **Detention of animals or products.** If an inspector finds a whole carcass, part of a  
4 carcass, or meat food product, a product exempted from the definition of a meat food product,  
5 or a dead, dying, disabled, or diseased animal on premises where it is held for purposes of,  
6 during, or after distribution in intrastate commerce, and the inspector reasonably believes that  
7 the article is adulterated or misbranded and is usable as human food, or that it has not been  
8 inspected, in violation of this chapter or federal law, or that the article or animal has been or is  
9 intended to be distributed in violation of this chapter or federal law, the inspector may detain the  
10 article for up to twenty days pending a hearing or notification of federal authorities having  
11 jurisdiction over the article or animal. The article may not be moved by any person from the  
12 place at which it was located when detained, until released by the commissioner. The  
13 commissioner may require all official marks to be removed from the article or animal before it is  
14 released unless the commissioner is satisfied that the article or animal is eligible to retain the  
15 official marks.

16                   **Seizure and condemnation.** The commissioner may initiate action to seize and  
17 condemn a whole carcass, part of a carcass, or meat food product, or a dead, dying, disabled,  
18 or diseased animal that is being transported in intrastate commerce, or is held for sale in this  
19 state after transportation in intrastate commerce if:

- 20                   1. The article is or has been prepared, sold, transported, or otherwise distributed or  
21                   offered or received for distribution in violation of this chapter;
- 22                   2. The article is usable as human food and is adulterated or misbranded; or
- 23                   3. The article is in any other way violative of this chapter.

24                   **Sale of condemned items.** If an article or animal is condemned, it must be disposed of  
25 by destruction or sale, as directed by a court. If it is sold, the proceeds must be paid to the  
26 state, less the court costs, fees, storage, and reasonable expenses, but the article or animal  
27 must not be sold contrary to this chapter or federal law. If a bond is delivered conditioned that  
28 the article or animal not be sold or otherwise disposed of contrary to this chapter or federal law,  
29 the court may direct that the article or animal be delivered to its owner subject to supervision by  
30 the commissioner.

1           **Types of proceedings - Award of costs.** If a decree of condemnation is entered  
2 against an article or animal and it is released under bond or destroyed, a court may award  
3 costs, fees, storage, and other reasonable expenses against any person intervening as a  
4 claimant of the article or animal. Either party to a proceeding may demand trial by jury of any  
5 issue of fact joined in the case, and all proceedings must be in the name of the state. Nothing  
6 in this section changes the authority for condemnation or seizure otherwise conferred by law.

7           **Powers of commissioner.** For the purposes of this chapter, the commissioner may:

- 8           1. Gather and compile information concerning and investigate the organization,  
9           business, conduct, practices, and management of a person in intrastate commerce  
10           and the person's relation to other persons.
- 11           2. Require that a person engaged in intrastate commerce file with the commissioner,  
12           in the form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, annual and special  
13           reports or written answers to specific questions, giving the commissioner the  
14           information the commissioner requires about the organization, business, conduct,  
15           practices, management, and relation to other persons, of the person filing the  
16           reports or answers.
- 17           3. Examine and copy documentary evidence of a person being investigated or being  
18           proceeded against. A person may not refuse to submit the commissioner, for  
19           inspection and copying, any documentary evidence of a person subject to this  
20           chapter in the person's possession or control.
- 21           4. A person required by this chapter to file an annual or special report may not fail to  
22           do so within the time fixed by the commissioner, and continue the failure for thirty  
23           days after notice of failure to file.
- 24           5. A state official or employee, without the commissioner's authority, may not make  
25           public any information obtained by the commissioner under this chapter, unless  
26           directed to do so by a court.

27           **General penalty.** Violation of this chapter or a rule adopted under this chapter is a  
28 class A misdemeanor. The commissioner is not required to report for prosecution or for the  
29 institution of injunctive proceedings a minor violation of this Act if the commissioner believes  
30 that the public interest will be adequately served by a suitable written warning.