

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 22-1018.01 Jery Payne x2157

SENATE BILL 22-209

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Donovan,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

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Senate Committees

Agriculture & Natural Resources

House Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING EXPANDING SMALL MEAT PROCESSING IN COLORADO BY  
102 PROVIDING BUSINESS APPLICATION ASSISTANCE TO OBTAIN  
103 CAPITAL.

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Bill Summary

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill instructs the commissioner of agriculture to hire an employee or engage a contractor to provide grant and loan application assistance to small meat processors or people attempting to start a small meat processor business. The grant or loan must be used to start, expand, or support a small meat processor business. The employee or contractor

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

may also assist agricultural producers and agricultural businesses in applying for and obtaining grants.

The grant and loan application assistance program repeals on July 1, 2024.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 35-1-116 as  
3 follows:

4 **35-1-116. Meat processing - grant and loan application**  
5 **assistance - definitions - legislative declaration - repeal.**

6 (1) **Legislative declaration.** THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS AND  
7 DECLARES THAT:

8 (a) CATTLE PRODUCTION IS THE LARGEST COMPONENT OF  
9 COLORADO'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, AND BEEF IS COLORADO'S LARGEST  
10 EXPORT;

11 (b) THE PRODUCTION AND SALE OF FEEDER AND LIVE CATTLE BY  
12 COLORADO'S INDIVIDUAL PRODUCERS CONTRIBUTES THREE BILLION SEVEN  
13 HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS TO THE STATE'S ECONOMY;

14 (c) INDIVIDUAL PRODUCERS IN COLORADO ARE DEPENDENT ON THE  
15 PRICE THAT PROCESSORS AND PACKERS ARE WILLING TO PAY FOR FED  
16 CATTLE;

17 (d) INDIVIDUAL PRODUCERS HAVE NOT SEEN AN EQUITABLE  
18 RETURN FOR THEIR CATTLE IN COMPARISON TO PROCESSOR AND PACKER  
19 PROFITS;

20 (e) THE UNITED STATES BEEF PROCESSING MARKET IS HIGHLY  
21 CONCENTRATED, WITH THE FOUR LARGEST BEEF PROCESSORS  
22 CONTROLLING OVER EIGHTY PERCENT OF UNITED STATES BEEF  
23 PROCESSING, LEADING TO LARGE PROFIT MARGINS;

1 (f) SMALL, INDEPENDENT MEAT PROCESSORS CAN SERVE AS AN  
2 ALTERNATIVE TO THE LARGE MEAT PROCESSORS AND INTRODUCE  
3 COMPETITION IN THE MARKET;

4 (g) ON FEBRUARY 24, 2021, THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENT  
5 SIGNED EXECUTIVE ORDER 14017, WHICH DECLARES, "THE UNITED  
6 STATES NEEDS RESILIENT, DIVERSE, AND SECURE SUPPLY CHAINS TO  
7 ENSURE OUR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND NATIONAL SECURITY";

8 (h) ON FEBRUARY 24, 2022, THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
9 AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL MAKE TWO  
10 HUNDRED FIFTEEN MILLION DOLLARS AVAILABLE FOR GRANTS AND OTHER  
11 SUPPORT TO EXPAND MEAT PROCESSING OPTIONS, STRENGTHEN THE FOOD  
12 SUPPLY CHAIN, AND CREATE JOBS AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN  
13 RURAL AREAS;

14 (i) THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY IN THE UNITED STATES  
15 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CREATED THE MEAT AND POULTRY  
16 PROCESSING EXPANSION PROGRAM, WHICH IS OFFERING GRANTS OF UP TO  
17 TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS TO EXPAND MEAT AND POULTRY  
18 PROCESSING; AND

19 (j) EXPANDING SMALL MEAT PROCESSING BUSINESSES WILL  
20 BENEFIT COLORADO'S AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS, ECONOMY, AND  
21 CONSUMERS.

22 (2) **Grant and loan application assistance.** (a) THE  
23 COMMISSIONER SHALL HIRE ONE EMPLOYEE OR ENGAGE A CONTRACTOR TO  
24 HELP SMALL MEAT PROCESSORS AND PEOPLE ATTEMPTING TO START A  
25 SMALL MEAT PROCESSOR BUSINESS APPLY FOR AND OBTAIN GRANTS AND  
26 LOANS OFFERED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
27 AND OTHER ENTITIES. EACH GRANT OR LOAN MUST BE USED TO START,

1 EXPAND, OR SUPPORT A SMALL MEAT PROCESSOR BUSINESS.

2 (b) IF THE EMPLOYEE OR CONTRACTOR HIRED OR ENGAGED BY THE  
3 COMMISSIONER IS ABLE, AFTER PERFORMING THE DUTIES DESCRIBED IN  
4 SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE EMPLOYEE OR CONTRACTOR MAY  
5 ASSIST AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS AND AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES IN  
6 APPLYING FOR AND OBTAINING GRANTS FROM THE UNITED STATES  
7 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND OTHER ENTITIES.

8 (3) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "SMALL MEAT PROCESSOR" MEANS  
9 A BUSINESS THAT:

10 (a) EMPLOYS FIVE HUNDRED OR FEWER INDIVIDUALS; AND

11 (b) SLAUGHTERS, DRESSES, CUTS, PREPARES, TRIMS, WRAPS, OR  
12 PACKAGES AN ANIMAL, MEAT, OR MEAT PRODUCT FROM AN ANIMAL.

13 (4) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024.

14 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
15 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
16 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.