

SENATE BILL 3317

By Johnson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 53, Chapter 7, relative to a state meat inspection program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 53, Chapter 7, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 5 inclusive of this act as a new Part 4.

SECTION 2. On or before July 1, 2014, the commissioner of agriculture shall implement a program of state inspection for intrastate consumption at establishments that process meat, poultry, or meat and poultry products for human consumption that qualifies as a cooperative state inspection program under the Federal Meat Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. § 661, and the Poultry Products Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. § 454. The program shall be designed to utilize, to the greatest extent possible, licensed veterinarians to perform the inspections under contract with the department of agriculture.

SECTION 3. The department of agriculture may employ a program administrator who shall be responsible for developing, implementing, and operating a state meat inspection program. Such administrator, on behalf of the commissioner of agriculture, shall coordinate activities necessary, including cooperation and consultation with the United States department of agriculture, in order to prepare a state performance plan that includes provisions for ante mortem and post mortem inspection, reinspection, sanitation, and program management at least equal to those imposed under the Federal Meat Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. § 601 et seq., and the Poultry Products Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. § 451 et seq.

SECTION 4. On or before January 1, 2013, the commissioner of agriculture shall provide a report to the general assembly that enumerates and describes any actions necessary to implement a state program of meat and poultry inspection described in this part. The report shall

identify necessary revisions of the Tennessee Meat and Poultry Inspection Act, compiled in part 2 of this chapter, other revisions to statutory authority of the department, and any rules and regulations promulgated thereto in order to effect the purposes of this part. The report shall include a detailed description of anticipated resources required to develop and maintain such program of meat and poultry inspection. The report shall recommend a fee schedule that ensures revenue produced from the licensure and inspection of establishments that process meat, poultry, or meat and poultry products for intrastate human consumption sufficient to fund the state program of meat and poultry inspection, including the implementation of a fee-for-service system in conducting inspections.

SECTION 5. The cooperative state meat and poultry inspection cash fund is created. The fund may be used to carry out the purposes of this act. The state treasurer shall credit to the fund any funds appropriated to the fund by the general assembly, and funds received as gifts or grants or other private or public funds obtained for the purposes set forth in Section 2.

SECTION 6. The commissioner of agriculture is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.