

**COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DIVISION OF INSPECTION AND CONSUMER SERVICES**

**SLAUGHTER, PROCESSING, AND SALE OF MEAT ANIMALS ACT (35-33 C.R.S.)
SB 09-117**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Colorado Slaughter, Processing, and Sale of Meat Animals Act regulates custom processing of meat animals and sale of meat for human consumption. The custom processing portion of this Act provides operational requirements to ensure consumer protection from food-borne illness. The food plan portion of this Act protects consumers through ethical business practice requirements for the sale of meat.

This bill implements the following recommendations listed in the DORA 2008 Sunset Review:

- Continues licensing Custom Meat Processors and Food Plan Operators for nine years, until 2018.
- Sunsets the regulation of locker plants.
- Separates the license provisions for custom meat processors and food plans.
- Adds and deletes definitions to update or clarify the Act.
- Allows the Commissioner to make a bond claim instead of the current requirement for a consumer to sue in court.
- Authorizes the Department to establish license expiration dates in rule.
- Directs civil penalties collected to be credited to the General Fund.
- Repeals the 10 day application period for license changes.
- Repeals the custom processing license exemption for grocery stores.
- Repeals the prohibition on non-employees being present in the processing area.
- Repeals the 20 pound minimum threshold for regulation of bulk or bundled meat products.

In addition to the above-listed changes, the following amendments were requested by the Department:

- Sever the Slaughter, Processing and Sale of Meat Animals Act into two parts: one for Custom Meat Processing and the other for Sale of Meat.
- Authorize late license renewal fees.
- Update language to conform to the Colorado Administrative Procedures Act.
- Remove method of sale requirements from the Bill and allow the Department to establish in rule.
- Amend slaughter methods to include all animals, instead of only livestock.
- Allow the Commissioner to adopt by rule the USDA Humane Slaughter methods.
- Clarify that rulemaking authority covers all aspects of the sale of home food service plans, not just the actions of the seller of these plans.