

**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 DORA 2008 Sunset Review recommendations:

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

In addition, the following amendments were requested by the Department, approved by the Senate, and are included in this Bill:

- 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.