

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29

INTRODUCED BY T. MANZELLA, A. REDFIELD

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING A STUDY OF MEAT INSPECTION LAWS; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 67TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Meat Inspection Act in 1906 to ensure and provide the public with a safe, wholesome meat supply; and

WHEREAS, the Meat Inspection Act, along with the subsequent Poultry Products Inspection Act and the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, provide the regulatory basis for Montana's meat inspection program; and

WHEREAS, a study of the relationship between federal and state regulators and Montana meatpackers deserves examination to ensure an appropriate balance between public health and private enterprise.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to examine the regulation of Montana meatpackers and, if possible, make recommendations for the state and federal regulatory systems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study consider:

- (1) relevant, applicable state and federal laws and rules;
- (2) federal and state inspection practices;
- (3) reports and analyses related to state and federal regulatory procedures;
- (4) input from meatpackers, custom butchers, consumers, meat inspectors, public health officials, and others affected by meat inspection laws; and
- (5) any other relevant information.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2020.



