

HOUSE BILL NO. 354

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE TARR

Introduced: 2/22/22

Referred: Resources, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to a program of state inspection for certain meat processing facilities;**
2 **establishing temporary grant programs for certain meat processing facilities and for**
3 **farm development and improvement; and providing for an effective date."**

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 * **Section 1.** AS 17.20.005 is amended to read:

6 **Sec. 17.20.005. Powers and duties of commissioner.** To carry out the
7 requirements of this chapter, the commissioner may issue orders, regulations, permits,
8 quarantines, and embargoes relating to

9 (1) food offered to the public or sold, **subject to AS 17.20.017,**
10 including

11 (A) inspection of meat, fish, poultry, and other food products;

12 (B) standards of sanitation and handling methods for all phases
13 of slaughtering, processing, storing, transporting, displaying, and selling;

14 (C) labeling; and

(D) the training, testing, and certification requirements for individuals who handle or prepare food, their supervisors, and their employers to ensure their knowledge of food safety and sanitation principles and requirements;

(2) control and eradication of pests;

(3) enforcement of hazard analysis critical control point programs for seafood processing that are developed in cooperation with appropriate industry representatives or, to the extent not inconsistent with this chapter or regulations adopted under the authority of this chapter, that are established by regulations of the United States Food and Drug Administration as they may periodically be revised;

(4) labeling, subject to AS 17.20.013, and grading of milk and milk products and standards of sanitation for dairies offering to the public or selling milk or milk products to at least the minimum of current recommendations of the United States Public Health Service pasteurized milk ordinance as it may periodically be revised;

(5) standards and conditions for the operation and siting of aquatic farms and related hatcheries, including

(A) restrictions on the use of chemicals; and

(B) requirements to protect the public from contaminated aquatic farm products that pose a risk to health;

(6) monitoring aquatic farms and aquatic farm products to ensure compliance with this chapter and, to the extent not inconsistent with this chapter or regulations adopted under the authority of this chapter, with the requirements of the national shellfish sanitation program manual of operations published by the United States Food and Drug Administration as it may periodically be revised;

(7) tests and analyses that may be made and hearings that may be held to determine whether the commissioner will issue a stop order or quarantine;

(8) transportation of, use of, disposal of, recalls of, or warnings concerning quarantined or embargoed items;

(9) cooperation with federal and other state agencies.

* **Sec. 2.** AS 17.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

1 **Sec. 17.20.017. Inspection of processed meat products.** (a) The department
 2 may adopt regulations to establish a program of state inspection for the processing and
 3 sale of meat products, including meat products from amenable species.

4 (b) The department may administer and enforce regulations adopted under (a)
 5 of this section for a program of state inspection for the processing and sale of meat
 6 products from amenable species only if the program is approved by the federal
 7 government.

8 (c) Regulations adopted by the department under this section must impose
 9 requirements that are not less stringent than the requirements imposed under 21 U.S.C.
 10 601 - 695 (Federal Meat Inspection Act) and 7 U.S.C. 1901 - 1907 (Humane Methods
 11 of Slaughter Act).

12 (d) Subject to (b) of this section, and except as provided in (e) of this section,
 13 if the department adopts regulations to establish a program of state inspection for the
 14 processing and sale of meat products, the department shall

15 (1) license facilities that process meat products for sale to the public;

16 (2) adopt license requirements and fees for facilities that process meat
 17 products for sale to the public; and

18 (3) use officers and employees of the department to inspect facilities
 19 that are licensed under this subsection.

20 (e) The department may not establish, administer, or enforce a program of
 21 inspection under this section for facilities that process meat products from equines.

22 (f) In this section,

23 (1) "amenable species" has the meaning given in 21 U.S.C. 601(w);

24 (2) "equine" means a member of the family Equidae.

25 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
 26 read:

27 **TEMPORARY GRANT PROGRAM FOR MEAT PROCESSING FACILITIES.** (a)
 28 The Department of Environmental Conservation shall establish a grant program by regulation
 29 for the purpose of funding

30 (1) upgrades to a facility that is expected to operate under a program of state
 31 inspection authorized under AS 17.20.017, added by sec. 2 of this Act;

(2) construction of a new facility that is expected to operate under a program of state inspection authorized under AS 17.20.017, added by sec. 2 of this Act; and

(3) expansion of a facility that operates under a program of federal inspection that plans to increase processing of meat from animals raised in the state.

(b) In administering the grant program established under (a) of this section, the Department of Environmental Conservation

(1) shall develop criteria for awarding a grant and a process for applying for a grant that includes requiring

(A) a grant applicant to submit a business plan; and

(B) the department to approve an applicant's business plan before awarding a grant;

(2) shall award grants preferentially to support facilities that prioritize seasonally feasible processing of meat from animals raised in the state; and

(3) may require a recipient of a grant to report to the department on the use of grant funds.

(c) A recipient of a grant made under this section may use grant funds for costs related to activities described in (a) of this section, including costs of technical assistance and the purchase of equipment.

* **Sec. 4.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

TEMPORARY GRANT PROGRAM FOR FARM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT. (a) The division of the Department of Natural Resources with responsibility for agriculture shall establish a grant program by regulation for the purpose of funding investments in agriculture to build resiliency in the state's food supply.

(b) In administering the grant program established under (a) of this section, the Department of Natural Resources

(1) shall develop criteria for awarding a grant and a process for applying for a grant that includes requiring

(A) a grant applicant to submit a business plan; and

(B) the department to approve an applicant's business plan before awarding a grant;

(2) may

(A) make grants of up to \$15,000 each year to an applicant for a maximum period of three years for eligible farm development and improvement expenses approved by the department;

(B) require a recipient of a grant to report to the department on the use of grant funds.

(c) Eligible expenses under (b)(2)(A) of this section include expenses relating to

(1) clearing of land for agricultural purposes; and

(2) the purchase, building, installation, maintenance, or improvement of

(A) irrigation, drainage, and other water management systems;

(B) fencing, trellising, barns, greenhouses, or other farm buildings or structures;

(C) agricultural processing and farm equipment, including milking and pasteurization equipment;

(D) livestock, feed, seeds, fertilizer, and seasonal extension equipment; and

(E) bees and beekeeping equipment.

* **Sec. 5.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

TRANSITION: REGULATIONS. The Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of Natural Resources shall adopt regulations necessary to implement this Act. The regulations take effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the effective date of the law implemented by the regulation.

* **Sec. 6.** Sections 3 and 4 of this Act are repealed June 30, 2025.

* **Sec. 7.** Section 5 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

* **Sec. 8.** Except as provided in sec. 7 of this Act, this Act takes effect January 1, 2023.