

Enrolled
House Bill 2785

Sponsored by Representatives SMITH DB, OWENS; Representatives BOSHART DAVIS, HAYDEN, LEIF, LEVY, MARSH, MORGAN, NEARMAN, NOBLE, RESCHKE, WEBER, WILDE, WILLIAMS, ZIKA (Pre-session filed.)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to meat inspection; and prescribing an effective date.

Whereas Oregon’s already acute lack of meat processing capacity has been severely strained during the COVID-19 pandemic, as industrial meat processing facilities around the country were closed due to virus outbreaks and out-of-state producers sent animals to the Pacific Northwest for processing, reducing much needed processing capacity for Oregon’s farmers and ranchers; and

Whereas increased demand for local meat during the COVID-19 pandemic further taxed an already burdened meat processing system; and

Whereas breakdowns in the industrial food system during the COVID-19 pandemic have highlighted the need for long-term investment in Oregon’s regional food infrastructure, including investment in increased meat processing capacity; now, therefore,

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The State Department of Agriculture shall establish by rule a grant program for the purpose of funding:

(a) Upgrades to establishments that are expected to operate under a program of state inspection authorized by section 2, chapter 6, Oregon Laws 2020 (first special session);

(b) Construction of new establishments that are expected to operate under a program of state inspection authorized by section 2, chapter 6, Oregon Laws 2020 (first special session); and

(c) Expansion of establishments that operate under a program of federal inspection and plan to increase processing of meat from animals raised in Oregon.

(2) In administering the program, the department:

(a) Shall develop criteria for awarding a grant and a process for applying for a grant;

(b) Shall preferentially award grants to support establishments that prioritize seasonally feasible processing of meat from animals raised in Oregon; and

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

(3) A recipient of a grant may use grant funds for costs related to the activities described in subsection (1) of this section, such as costs of technical assistance and the purchase of equipment.

SECTION 2. (1) In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the State Department of Agriculture, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$2,000,000 for the purpose specified in section 1 of this 2021 Act.

(2) In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for distribution to Oregon State University, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$300,000 for the purpose of funding upgrades to facilities and equipment at the Clark Meat Science Center that are consistent with inspection requirements.

SECTION 3. Section 1 of this 2021 Act is repealed on June 30, 2023.

SECTION 4. This 2021 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2021 regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

Passed by House June 24, 2021

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate June 26, 2021

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M.,....., 2021

Approved:

.....M.,....., 2021

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Kate Brown, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M.,....., 2021

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Shemia Fagan, Secretary of State