

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 25-0830.01 Richard Sweetman x4333

HOUSE BILL 25-1203

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Winter T. and McCormick,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Pelton R. and Mullica,

House Committees

Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT, AND, IN CONNECTION**
102 **THEREWITH, PROHIBITING THE MISBRANDING OF**
103 **CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT AS A MEAT PRODUCT AND REQUIRING**
104 **CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT TO BE CLEARLY LABELED AS**
105 **CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill prohibits food processing plants from selling or offering for sale cell-cultivated meat that is misbranded as a meat product. The bill

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
March 7, 2025

also requires food processing plants to clearly label cell-cultivated meat as cell-cultivated meat.

The department of public health and environment (department) is required to inspect food at a food processing plant if the department has reasonable cause to believe that:

- Cell-cultivated meat sold or offered for sale by the plant is misbranded as a meat product; or
- The plant is failing to label cell-cultivated meat as required.

If, after an inspection, the department has reasonable cause to believe that a food processing plant is selling or offering for sale cell-cultivated meat that is misbranded as a meat product, or is failing to label cell-cultivated meat as required, the department may issue a stop order. Upon being issued the stop order, the food processing plant shall not sell the product or offer it for sale until the department determines whether it is misbranded or unlabeled in violation of the bill.

If the department determines that a food processing plant is selling or offering for sale cell-cultivated meat that is misbranded as a meat product, or is failing to label cell-cultivated meat as required, the department may issue an embargo order requiring the food processing plant to dispose of the cell-cultivated meat by means other than by sale to purchasers in Colorado.

The department, the attorney general, or the district attorney in the district where cell-cultivated meat is being offered for sale or sold may petition the district court to enforce a stop order or an embargo order.

The department may adopt rules as necessary to implement the bill.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly finds that:

(a) For generations, Colorado stock growers have raised high-quality meat products that feed families across the state and the nation;

(b) Livestock production is not just an industry in Colorado; it is a proud tradition woven into the very fabric of the state's history; and

(c) Agriculture remains the lifeblood of rural Colorado, driving local economies while preserving a rich heritage that rural Coloradans embrace with pride.

1 (2) Now, therefore, the general assembly declares that a labeling
2 requirement on the sale or distribution of cell-cultivated meat in the state
3 is necessary to eliminate any potential for deceptive trade practices and
4 preserve the free market choice that all Colorado consumers deserve
5 when it comes to their protein options.

6 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-5-411, **amend** (1)
7 introductory portion; and **add** (1)(q) and (1)(r) as follows:

8 **25-5-411. Definitions of "misbranding".** (1) A food ~~shall be~~ IS
9 deemed to be misbranded:

10 (q) IF THE FOOD IS CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT OR CONTAINS
11 CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT AND IS MISBRANDED AS A MEAT PRODUCT IN
12 VIOLATION OF SECTION 25-5-428; OR

13 (r) IF THE FOOD IS CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT OR CONTAINS
14 CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT AND IS NOT CLEARLY LABELED AS
15 CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT IN VIOLATION OF SECTION 25-5-428.

16 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 25-5-428 as
17 follows:

18 **25-5-428. Misbranding of cell-cultivated meat as meat product**
19 **prohibited - labeling of cell-cultivated meat required - definitions -**
20 **inspections - stop orders - embargo orders - enforcement - rules.**

21 (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
22 REQUIRES:

23 (a) "AGRICULTURAL FOOD ANIMAL" MEANS:

24 (I) A DOMESTICATED ANIMAL BELONGING TO THE BOVINE,
25 CAPRINE, OVINE, OR PORCINE SPECIES; OR

26 (II) A LIVE DOMESTIC CHICKEN OR TURKEY.

27 (b) "CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT" MEANS FOOD HAVING ONE OR MORE

1 SENSORY ATTRIBUTES THAT RESEMBLES A TYPE OF TISSUE ORIGINATING
2 FROM AN AGRICULTURAL FOOD ANIMAL BUT THAT, IN LIEU OF BEING
3 DERIVED FROM MEAT PROCESSING, IS DERIVED FROM MANUFACTURING
4 CELLS, IN WHICH ONE OR MORE STEM CELLS ARE INITIALLY ISOLATED FROM
5 AN AGRICULTURAL FOOD ANIMAL, ARE GROWN IN VITRO, AND MAY BE
6 MANIPULATED AS PART OF A MANUFACTURING OPERATION.

7 (c) "FOOD PROCESSING PLANT" MEANS A COMMERCIAL OPERATION
8 THAT MANUFACTURES, PACKAGES, LABELS, OR STORES FOOD FOR HUMAN
9 CONSUMPTION AND DOES NOT PROVIDE FOOD DIRECTLY TO A CONSUMER.

10 (d) "IDENTIFYING MEAT TERM" MEANS ANY WORD OR PHRASE THAT
11 STATES, INDICATES, SUGGESTS, OR DESCRIBES A MEAT PRODUCT,
12 REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE WORD OR PHRASE IS USED INDIVIDUALLY,
13 AS A PORTMANTEAU, OR AS A COMPOUND WORD. "IDENTIFYING MEAT
14 TERM" INCLUDES:

15 (I) A COMMON NAME FOR THE SPECIES OF THE AGRICULTURAL
16 FOOD ANIMAL SUBJECT TO SLAUGHTER AND PROCESSING, INCLUDING A
17 CALF OR COW, CHICKEN, GOAT OR KID, HOG OR PIG, POULTRY, LAMB OR
18 SHEEP, OR TURKEY;

19 (II) A COMMON NAME FOR A CHARACTERISTIC OF A SPECIES OF THE
20 AGRICULTURAL FOOD ANIMAL SUBJECT TO SLAUGHTER AND PROCESSING
21 BASED ON AGE, BREED, OR SEX;

22 (III) BEEF OR VEAL; BROILER, FRYER, POULET, OR YEARLING;
23 CABRITO OR CHEVON; LAMB OR MUTTON; OR PORK;

24 (IV) A COMMON NAME USED TO DESCRIBE A MAJOR CUT OF THE
25 MEAT OF AN AGRICULTURAL FOOD ANIMAL SLAUGHTERED AND
26 PROCESSED, INCLUDING A MAJOR MEAT CUT SPECIFIED IN 9 CFR 317.344;

27 (V) A POULTRY PRODUCT SUCH AS BREAST, DRUMSTICK, GIBLET,

1 THIGH, OR WING;

2 (VI) THE COMMON NAME OF AN ORGAN OR OFFAL, INCLUDING
3 GIZZARD, HEART, LIVER, KIDNEY, OR TONGUE; AND

4 (VII) ANY OTHER COMMON NAME THAT A REASONABLE
5 PURCHASER WOULD IMMEDIATELY AND EXCLUSIVELY ASSOCIATE WITH A
6 MEAT PRODUCT PREPARED FOR SALE IN NORMAL COMMERCIAL CHANNELS,
7 SUCH AS BACON, BALONEY, BOLOGNA, BONE, BRAT OR BRATWURST,
8 BRISKET, BURGER OR HAMBURGER, BUTT, CHOP, CHUCK, COLD CUT,
9 CUTLET, FILET, FLAT IRON, FRANK OR FRANKFURTER, HAM, HOCK, HOT
10 DOG, JERKY, LIVERWURST, LOIN, LONDON BROIL, LUNCHMEAT, NEW YORK
11 STRIP, PEPPERONI, PORTERHOUSE, RIBEYE, ROAST, RIB OR SPARERIB,
12 SALAMI, SAUSAGE, SHANK, SIRLOIN, TENDERLOIN, OR A COMPARABLE
13 WORD OR PHRASE THE DEPARTMENT ADOPTS BY RULE.

14 (e) "MEAT PROCESSING" MEANS THE HANDLING, PREPARATION,
15 AND SLAUGHTER OF AN AGRICULTURAL FOOD ANIMAL; THE DRESSING OF
16 ITS CARCASS; OR THE CUTTING, STORAGE, AND PACKAGING OF ITS TISSUE
17 OR OTHER PARTS AS FOOD.

18 (f) "MEAT PRODUCT" MEANS FOOD DERIVED FROM MEAT
19 PROCESSING.

20 (g) (I) "MISBRANDED AS A MEAT PRODUCT" MEANS THAT
21 CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT OR A FOOD CONTAINING CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT:

22 (A) IS SOLD OR OFFERED FOR SALE BY A FOOD PROCESSING PLANT;
23 AND

24 (B) BEARS A LABEL THAT INCLUDES AN IDENTIFYING MEAT TERM.

25 (II) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (1)(g)(I) OF THIS SECTION,
26 CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT OR A FOOD CONTAINING CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT
27 IS NOT MISBRANDED AS A MEAT PRODUCT IF:

1 (A) THE LABEL INCLUDES A CONSPICUOUS AND PROMINENT
2 QUALIFYING TERM IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE IDENTIFYING MEAT TERM;
3 OR

4 (B) THE PRODUCT CONTAINS NO MORE THAN A TRACE AMOUNT OF
5 CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT, AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

6 (h) "QUALIFYING TERM" MEANS A WORD, COMPOUND WORD, OR
7 PHRASE THAT WOULD CLEARLY DISCLOSE TO A REASONABLE PURCHASER
8 OF MEAT PRODUCTS FROM A FOOD PROCESSING PLANT THAT A FOOD IS NOT
9 A MEAT PRODUCT. "QUALIFYING TERM" INCLUDES "CELL-CULTIVATED",
10 "CELL-CULTURED", "GROWN IN A LAB", "IMITATION", "LAB-CREATED",
11 "LAB-GROWN", "MEAT FREE", "MEATLESS", AND A COMPARABLE WORD OR
12 PHRASE ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT BY RULE.

13 (2) A FOOD PROCESSING PLANT SHALL NOT SELL OR OFFER FOR
14 SALE CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT THAT IS MISBRANDED AS A MEAT PRODUCT.

15 (3) A FOOD PROCESSING PLANT THAT SELLS OR OFFERS FOR SALE
16 CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT SHALL ENSURE THAT EACH UNIT OF THE
17 CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT BEARS A LABEL THAT DESCRIBES THE PRODUCT
18 AS "CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT" IN CLEAR, LEGIBLE TYPE.

19 (4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INSPECT AN INVENTORY OF FOOD
20 OFFERED FOR SALE OR SOLD AT A FOOD PROCESSING PLANT PURSUANT TO
21 SECTION 25-5-421 IF THE DEPARTMENT HAS REASONABLE CAUSE TO
22 BELIEVE THAT:

23 (a) CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT SOLD OR OFFERED FOR SALE BY THE
24 FOOD PROCESSING PLANT IS MISBRANDED AS A MEAT PRODUCT; OR

25 (b) THE FOOD PROCESSING PLANT IS FAILING TO LABEL
26 CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT AS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS
27 SECTION.

1 (5) (a) IF, AFTER AN INSPECTION, THE DEPARTMENT HAS
2 REASONABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT A FOOD PROCESSING PLANT IS
3 SELLING OR OFFERING FOR SALE CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT THAT IS
4 MISBRANDED AS A MEAT PRODUCT, OR IS FAILING TO LABEL
5 CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT AS CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT, THE DEPARTMENT
6 MAY ISSUE A STOP ORDER. AFTER RECEIVING THE STOP ORDER, THE FOOD
7 PROCESSING PLANT SHALL NOT SELL THE PRODUCT OR OFFER IT FOR SALE
8 UNTIL THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES WHETHER THE FOOD IS MISBRANDED
9 AS A MEAT PRODUCT OR IMPROPERLY UNLABELED. THE DEPARTMENT MAY
10 REQUIRE THE FOOD PROCESSING PLANT TO HOLD THE PRODUCT AND
11 SECURE IT FROM PURCHASE.

12 (b) IF THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT CELL-CULTIVATED
13 MEAT SOLD OR OFFERED FOR SALE BY A FOOD PROCESSING PLANT IS
14 MISBRANDED AS A MEAT PRODUCT, OR THAT A FOOD PROCESSING PLANT
15 HAS FAILED TO LABEL CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT AS REQUIRED BY
16 SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE AN
17 EMBARGO ORDER REQUIRING THE FOOD PROCESSING PLANT TO DISPOSE OF
18 THE CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT BY MEANS OTHER THAN BY SALE TO
19 PURCHASERS IN COLORADO.

20 (c) THE DEPARTMENT, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, OR THE DISTRICT
21 ATTORNEY IN THE DISTRICT WHERE CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT IS BEING
22 OFFERED FOR SALE OR SOLD MAY PETITION THE DISTRICT COURT TO
23 ENFORCE A STOP ORDER ISSUED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (5)(a) OF THIS
24 SECTION OR AN EMBARGO ORDER ISSUED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (5)(b)
25 OF THIS SECTION.

26 (6) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT RULES AS NECESSARY TO
27 IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

1 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date -**
2 **applicability.** (1) This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following
3 the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the
4 general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant
5 to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an
6 item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item,
7 section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the
8 general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take
9 effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the
10 governor.
11 (2) This act applies to food labeled or packaged on or after the
12 applicable effective date of this act.