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AN ACT

RELATING TO FOOD; AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A STATE MEAT INSPECTION PROGRAM TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND QUALITY OF MEAT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION; PROVIDING PENALTIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of Chapter 25 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"STATE MEAT INSPECTION PROGRAM--RULES--PENALTIES-- COOPERATION WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.--

A. The New Mexico livestock board shall adopt rules necessary to establish a comprehensive state meat inspection program for the inspection, processing and sale of meat and poultry products that meets or exceeds the standards and requirements for a state meat inspection program under the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the federal Poultry Products Inspection Act and the federal Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1978, including rules to:

(1) license facilities engaged in the processing or manufacturing of meat and poultry products;

(2) deem horse meat slaughtered for human consumption as adulterated;

(3) establish license requirements and reasonable fees; and

(4) provide inspection services.

1 B. The New Mexico livestock board shall only
2 administer and enforce the program established pursuant to
3 Subsection A of this section if the board receives approval
4 from the federal government for a state meat inspection
5 program.

6 C. A person violating a rule adopted by the
7 New Mexico livestock board pursuant to this section is guilty
8 of a misdemeanor and upon conviction may be sentenced to
9 imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed one
10 year and payment of a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars
11 (\$1,000), unless that person acted in good faith.

12 D. The New Mexico livestock board shall actively
13 seek and maintain coordination with federal authorities to
14 ensure alignment with and approval of the state meat
15 inspection program."

16 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
17 provisions of this act is July 1, 2024. _____