

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2760

To clarify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to establish performance standards for the reduction of microbiological pathogens in meat and poultry.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 21, 2000

Mr. HARKIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To clarify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to establish performance standards for the reduction of microbiological pathogens in meat and poultry.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Microbiological Per-
5 formance Standards Clarification Act of 2000”.

1 **SEC. 2. MICROBIOLOGICAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**
2 **FOR MEAT AND POULTRY.**

3 (a) MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS.—The Federal Meat
4 Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by in-
5 serting after section 8 (21 U.S.C. 608) the following:

6 **“SEC. 8A. MICROBIOLOGICAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to protect the public
8 health and promote food safety, the Secretary may by reg-
9 ulation prescribe performance standards for the reduction
10 of microbiological pathogens in meat and meat products
11 processed by each establishment receiving inspection serv-
12 ices under this Act.

13 “(b) ENFORCEMENT.—If the Secretary determines
14 that an establishment fails to meet a standard established
15 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall refuse to allow
16 any meat or meat product subject to the standard and
17 processed by the establishment to be labeled, marked,
18 stamped, or tagged as ‘inspected and passed’.”

19 (b) POULTRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS.—The Poul-
20 try Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.) is
21 amended by inserting after section 7 (21 U.S.C. 456) the
22 following:

23 **“SEC. 7A. MICROBIOLOGICAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to protect the public
25 health and promote food safety, the Secretary may by reg-
26 ulation prescribe performance standards for the reduction

1 of microbiological pathogens in poultry and poultry prod-
2 ucts processed by each establishment receiving inspection
3 services under this Act.

4 “(b) ENFORCEMENT.—If the Secretary determines
5 that an establishment fails to meet a standard established
6 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall refuse to allow
7 any poultry or poultry product subject to the standard and
8 processed by the establishment to be labeled, marked,
9 stamped, or tagged as ‘inspected and passed’.”

10 (c) EFFECTIVENESS OF CURRENT REGULATIONS.—
11 Consistent with section 553 of title 5, United States Code,
12 the Secretary of Agriculture shall have the authority to
13 enforce the microbiological performance standards of the
14 Secretary in effect on May 24, 2000.

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