

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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New draft of: S. P. 218, L. D. 623

ONE - HUNDRETH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1475

S. P. 483

In Senate, March 3, 1961

Reported by Senator Pike of Oxford from Committee on Agriculture and printed under Joint Rules No. 10.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-ONE

AN ACT Requiring the Humane Slaughtering of Livestock.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 32, § 250, amended. Section 250 of chapter 32 of the Revised Statutes, as repealed and replaced by section 2 of chapter 107 of the public laws of 1955 and amended by section 2 of chapter 357 of the public laws of 1959, is further amended by adding at the end 2 new paragraphs to read as follows:

‘The term “humane method” shall mean a method whereby the animal, other than poultry, is rendered insensible to pain by mechanical, electrical, chemical or other means that is rapid and effective, before being shackled, hoisted, thrown, cast or cut; or a method of slaughtering, including handling and other preparation for slaughtering, required by or used in connection with the ritual of the Jewish faith or any other religious faith whereby the animal suffers loss of consciousness by anemia of the brain caused by the simultaneous and instantaneous severance of the carotid arteries with a sharp instrument.

The term “commissioner” shall mean the Commissioner of Agriculture or his authorized agent.’

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 32, § 251, amended. Section 251 of chapter 32 of the Revised Statutes, as last repealed and replaced by section 3 of chapter 357 of the public laws of 1959, is amended by adding at the end 2 new paragraphs to read as follows:

‘The commissioner shall, after hearing, promulgate regulations governing humane method of slaughter and may from time to time revise regulations

which shall conform substantially to the rules and regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States pursuant to the Federal Humane Slaughter Act of 1958, public law 85-765, 72 Stat. 862, and any amendments thereto. The use of a manually operated hammer, sledge or poleax shall not be deemed to be a humane method of slaughter within the meaning of sections 248 to 254. Any State Humane Agent may witness the slaughtering methods in any licensed slaughterhouse and may report to the commissioner who may permit said agent to submit testimony at a hearing held under section 249.

It shall be unlawful in any licensed slaughterhouse to shackle, hoist or otherwise bring animals, other than poultry, into position for slaughter by any method which shall cause injury or pain, nor bleed or slaughter any animals, other than poultry, except by a humane method. This paragraph shall not apply to animals slaughtered by or for the owner, the meat and meat products from which are not sold or offered for sale.'

Sec. 3. R. S., c. 32, § 254-A, additional. Chapter 32 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 254-A, to read as follows:

'**Sec. 254-A. Application.** Nothing contained in sections 248 to 254 shall be construed to prohibit, abridge or in any way hinder the religious freedom of any person or group. In order to protect freedom of religion, ritual slaughter and the handling or other preparation of livestock for ritual slaughter are exempted from the terms of sections 248 to 254. For the purposes of this section the term "ritual slaughter" means slaughter in accordance with the ritual requirements of a religious faith.'

Sec. 4. Effective date. This act shall be in effect on and after July 1, 1962. The commissioner, by administrative order, may exempt from compliance with this act for a period not to exceed one year after July 1, 1962, if he finds that earlier compliance would cause any person an undue hardship.