

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE - HUNDRETH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 623

S. P. 218

In Senate, January 24, 1961

Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, sent down for concurrence and 1,000 copies ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Stanley of Penobscot.

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, §§ 336-340, additional. Chapter 32 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding 5 new sections to be numbered 336 to 340, to read as follows:

'Humane Slaughtering of Livestock.

Sec. 336. Definitions. As used in sections 336 to 340, the following words shall have the following meanings:

- I. **Commissioner.** "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Agriculture.
- II. **Humane method.** "Humane method" means a method whereby the animal 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.
- III. **Livestock.** "Livestock" means cattle, calves, sheep, swine, horses, mules, goats and any other animal which can or may be used in and for the preparation of meat or meat products, excluding poultry.
- IV. **Packer.** "Packer" means any person engaged in the business of slaughtering, or of manufacturing or preparing meat or meat products for

sale, either by such person or others; or of manufacturing or preparing livestock products for sale by such person or others.

V. Person. "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation or association doing business in the State, in whole or in part.

VI. Slaughterer. "Slaughterer" means any person regularly engaged in the business of purchasing livestock for purposes of slaughter or slaughtering livestock for the sale, by such person or others, of meat or meat products.

VII. Stockyard. "Stockyard" means any place, establishment or facility commonly known as a stockyard, conducted or operated for compensation or profit as a public market, consisting of pens, or other enclosure, and their appurtenances, for the handling, keeping and holding of livestock for the purpose of sale or shipment.

Sec. 337. Humane method. No slaughterer, packer or stockyard operator shall shackle, hoist or otherwise bring livestock into position for slaughter by any method which shall cause injury or pain, nor bleed or slaughter any livestock except by a humane method.

Sec. 338. Administration. The commissioner shall administer sections 336 to 340. He shall promulgate and may from time to time revise rules and 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 336 to 340. Any State Humane Agent may inspect the premises and operation of any slaughterer, packer or stockyard operator, and make written report to the commissioner of any violation of sections 336 to 340, and request an investigation and appropriate action by the commissioner.

Sec. 339. Penalty. Any person who violates any provision of sections 336 to 340 shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 or by imprisonment for not more than 60 days, or by both.

Sec. 340. Exemptions. The commissioner, by administrative order, may exempt from compliance with sections 336 to 340 for a period of not to exceed one year after July 1, 1962, any slaughterer, packer or stockyard operator if he finds that an earlier compliance would cause such person an undue hardship.'

Sec. 2. Effective date. This act shall be in effect on and after July 1, 1962.