

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE - HUNDRETH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1180

S. P. 369

In Senate, February 2, 1961

Referred to Committee on Agriculture. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Pike of Oxford, by request.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-ONE

AN ACT, Relating to Inspection of Slaughterhouses.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 32, § 251-A, additional. Chapter 32 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is further amended by adding a new section, to be numbered 251-A, to read as follows:

'Sec. 251-A. Slaughterhouse inspection. The Commissioner of Agriculture shall examine and inspect all cattle, sheep, swine and goats, or other livestock, if the meat and meat food products thereof are to be used or sold for human food, before they enter any slaughterhouse; and all cattle, sheep, swine and goats, or other livestock found on such inspection to show symptoms of disease shall be set apart and slaughtered separately from all other cattle, sheep, swine or goats, or other livestock. When so slaughtered, the carcasses of such cattle, sheep, swine or goats, or other livestock shall be subjected to a careful examination and inspection. The commissioner shall make a post-mortem examination and inspection of the carcasses and parts thereof of all cattle, sheep, swine and goats, or other livestock, to be prepared for human food at any slaughterhouse, and the carcasses and parts thereof of all such animals found to be sound, healthful, wholesome and fit for human food shall be marked, stamped, tagged or labeled "inspected and passed." Inspectors shall mark, stamp, tag or label "inspected and condemned" all carcasses and parts thereof of animals found to be unsound, unhealthful, unwholesome or otherwise unfit for human food; and all carcasses and parts thereof thus inspected and condemned shall be destroyed for food purposes by such establishment in the presence of the commissioner or of an inspector.

The Department of Agriculture is empowered, for the purpose of providing the ante-mortem and post-mortem examinations and inspections and enforcing sanitary and other regulations governing the operation of slaughterhouses, to divide the State into meat inspection districts, designate killing days for each establishment where deemed advisable and to employ such veterinarians and other inspectors as it deems necessary.

The supervision of the meat inspection service of the department shall be under the immediate direction of a competent, graduate, licensed veterinarian or trained technician experienced in meat inspection employed by the department and the inspectors employed in the slaughterhouse shall be qualified, graduate, licensed veterinarians or competent lay inspectors working under the supervision of a graduate, licensed veterinarian. The department shall have authority to adopt the necessary sanitary and meat inspection rules and regulations, including requirements for construction, equipment and facilities, for operating, to put into effect said state meat inspection service. Said rules and regulations are to be predicated upon and made in conformity, insofar as is practicable, with the United States Meat Inspection Branch meat inspection rules and regulations which shall govern the method and procedure of meat inspection in slaughterhouses operating under state meat inspection service.

Meat and meat food products from slaughterhouses in which meat inspection service is maintained and which bears the official meat inspection stamp "Maine inspected and passed" of the department may be sold in any part of the State, subject to the sanitary requirements of municipalities with respect to cleanliness and wholesomeness of the meat and meat food products in handling and transporting after they leave the slaughtering establishment.

Nothing in this section shall impair or abridge the power of any county or municipality to regulate the killing, processing, handling, storage, distribution and sale of meat food animals and meat food products made from such animals nor their authority to make such ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections, provided the minimum requirements under this section and under the regulations of the department are observed. Where such inspection service is provided by any county or municipality, the department will accept the finding of such inspection service in lieu of making a routine inspection, except for the purpose of evaluating the facilities and efficiency of such inspection program.

The department may enter into agreements with persons, firms, corporations, counties or municipalities to pay any or all of the expenses of supervising inspections, conducting inspections and employing competent, graduate, licensed veterinary inspectors or trained technicians.

This section shall not apply to any bona fide farmer who butchers, or has butchered for him, animals not for retail sale.'

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Division of Inspection in the Department of Agriculture to carry out the purposes of this act, the sum of \$100,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30,

1962 and the sum of \$150,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1963; the breakdown of which shall be as follows:

Department	1961-62	1962-63
AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF		
Division of Inspection		
Personal Services	\$ 65,000	\$100,000
All Other	30,000	50,000
Capital Expenditures	5,000	—
	<u>100,000</u>	<u>150,000</u>
	<u><u>\$100,000</u></u>	<u><u>\$150,000</u></u>