

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 259

H.P. 196

House of Representatives, February 5, 2013

**An Act To Allow a Person Who Owns a Slaughterhouse To
Slaughter Poultry for Other People**

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative TIMBERLAKE of Turner.
Cosponsored by Senator MASON of Androscoggin and
Representatives: BLACK of Wilton, CHAPMAN of Brooksville, CRAFTS of Lisbon, DILL of
Old Town, GILBERT of Jay, JORGENSEN of Portland, KUMIEGA of Deer Isle, McCABE of
Skowhegan.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** there are a limited number of meat and poultry processing facilities
4 operating in Maine; and

5 **Whereas,** poultry producers on small farms that process under 1,000 birds annually
6 may not have facilities that are adequate for the efficient processing of the birds they
7 raise; and

8 **Whereas,** owners and operators of slaughterhouses licensed under Maine law have
9 the facilities and skills to efficiently process poultry raised on small farms; and

10 **Whereas,** rental income from processing poultry raised on small farms may provide
11 additional income to owners of slaughterhouses licensed under Maine law; and

12 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
13 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
14 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
15 therefore,

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

17 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §2517-D** is enacted to read:

18 **§2517-D. Rental of a licensed slaughterhouse**

19 **1. Contract slaughtering.** A slaughterhouse licensed under section 2514 may enter
20 into a contract with a poultry producer who otherwise meets the requirements of section
21 2517-C to rent that slaughterhouse for the slaughter and processing of poultry. Poultry
22 slaughtered and processed under the rental contract must be slaughtered and processed by
23 the owner or operator of the slaughterhouse.

24 **2. Restrictions on point of sale.** Poultry slaughtered and processed under this
25 section may be sold only from the renting poultry producer's farm and may not be offered
26 for sale or transportation in interstate commerce.

27 **3. Labeling.** Packaging for poultry slaughtered and processed under this section
28 must contain the name of the slaughterhouse owner and the name and address of the
29 renting poultry producer.

30 **4. Fees.** The commissioner shall adopt rules to establish rental fees for the rental of
31 licensed slaughterhouses by poultry producers eligible to contract with licensed
32 slaughterhouses under this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine
33 technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

34 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
35 legislation takes effect when approved.

1

SUMMARY

2 This bill allows a licensed slaughterhouse to contract with certain poultry producers
3 for the rental of the slaughterhouse for the purposes of slaughtering poultry. The bill
4 requires the renting producer's poultry to be slaughtered by the owner or operator of the
5 slaughterhouse. It prohibits the poultry slaughtered and processed under the rental
6 contract from being sold or transported for interstate commerce. The bill also requires
7 certain information to be printed on labels of the poultry products produced for the
8 renting producer. It also authorizes the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and
9 Forestry to adopt rules governing fees charged by licensed slaughterhouses for the rental
10 of their facilities.