

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NINETY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 368

H. P. 327

House of Representatives, February 2, 1955

Referred to the Committee of Agriculture, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Elwell of Brooks.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-FIVE

AN ACT Clarifying Laws on Slaughterhouses and Meat Processing Plants.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 32, § 248, amended. The 1st paragraph of section 248 of chapter 32 of the revised statutes is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

'No person, firm, partnership, corporation, association or society shall operate a slaughterhouse or meat processing plant within the State of Maine unless such person, firm, partnership, corporation, association or society be licensed by the Commissioner of Agriculture. A license shall not be required of any farmer or other person who raises and slaughters his own domestic animals on his farm or premises for consumption or sale as human food, this being incidental to his general livelihood, nor of any retail sales establishment; nor the home kitchen operated only by the owner and his immediate family. An application for a license, or renewal of license, shall be made each year upon a form prescribed by the Commissioner. Such license shall commence upon the 1st day of August. With the application, there shall be paid to the Commissioner a license fee of \$5. Upon receipt of the application for a license, or renewal of same, the Commissioner shall issue a license after being satisfied that the applicant has complied with section 251 and the regulations promulgated thereunder. Each such license shall cover a group of buildings or parts thereof, in one location, constituting a slaughterhouse, meat processing plant, or both; operated by the licensee. Said license shall run for 1 year from the 1st day of August in each year, or unless sooner revoked as provided in section 249.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 32, § 250, repealed and replaced. Section 250 of chapter 32 of the revised statutes is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

Sec. 250. Definitions. The term "slaughterhouse" shall mean any establishment wherein animals or poultry are slaughtered for human consumption.

The term "slaughter" shall mean the butchering of animals or poultry for human consumption.

The term "meat processing plant" shall mean any place where meat or meat products are prepared, processed, manufactured, packaged or frozen, for human consumption.'

Sec. 3. R. S., c. 32, § 251, repealed and replaced. Section 251 of chapter 32 of the revised statutes is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

'**Sec. 251. Inspection; rules.** The floors, walls, ceilings, partitions, posts, doors, equipment and other parts of all licensed slaughterhouse or meat processing plants shall be of such materials, construction and finish as will make them susceptible of being readily and thoroughly cleaned. Said establishments shall, at all times, be maintained and operated in a sanitary manner and in compliance with the Maine Food Law. Meat or meat products shall be prepared, processed, handled, packaged and transported in such a manner as to protect them from rapid decomposition, adulteration or contamination. The Commissioner shall promulgate regulations for carrying out the provisions of sections 248 to 254, inclusive, fix standards of quality and identity for meat and meat products, and by adequate inspection, enforce the provisions of sections 248 to 254, inclusive.'