

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5172

To amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to provide for the establishment of a Safe Meat and Poultry Inspection Panel within the United States Department of Agriculture.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 4, 1994

Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. GUNDERSON, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. ALLARD, and Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska) introduced the following bill which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to provide for the establishment of a Safe Meat and Poultry Inspection Panel within the United States Department of Agriculture.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Safe Meat and Poultry
5 Inspection Panel Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF SAFE MEAT AND POULTRY IN-**
2 **SPECTION PANEL.**

3 The Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et
4 seq.) is amended by adding at the end thereof the follow-
5 ing new section:

6 “SEC. . SAFE MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION
7 PANEL.—“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby estab-
8 lished in the Department of Agriculture a permanent advi-
9 sory panel known as the “Safe Meat and Poultry Inspec-
10 tion Panel”.

11 “(b) PURPOSE.—The Safe Meat and Poultry Inspec-
12 tion Panel shall review, evaluate, and make comments and
13 recommendations in the form of a report to the Secretary
14 on the adequacy, necessity, safety, cost-effectiveness, and
15 scientific merit of the following:

16 (1) Inspection procedures of, and work rules
17 and worker relations involving Federal employees
18 employed in, plants inspected under this Act.

19 (2) Informal petitions or proposals for changes
20 in inspection procedures, processes, and techniques
21 of plants inspected under this Act.

22 (3) Formal changes in meat inspection regula-
23 tions, either in notice, proposed, or final form, pro-
24 mulgated by virtue of authority granted by this Act
25 and within the time limits prescribed for formal
26 comments on such changes.

1 (4) Such other matters as may be referred to
2 the panel by the Secretary regarding the quality or
3 effectiveness of a safe and cost-effective meat inspec-
4 tion system under this Act.

5 “(c) COMPOSITION OF PANEL.—The Safe Meat and
6 Poultry Inspection Panel shall be composed of 7 members,
7 not less than 5 of which members shall be from the food,
8 meat, and poultry science profession, appointed to stag-
9 gered terms not to exceed three years by the Secretary
10 from nominations received from the National Institutes of
11 Health and the American Meat Science Association and
12 based upon the professional qualifications of the nominees.

13 “(d) NOMINATIONS.—In constituting the original
14 Safe Meat and Poultry Inspection Panel, the Secretary
15 shall initially solicit 6 nominees from the National Insti-
16 tutes of Health and 6 nominees from the American Meat
17 Science Association for membership on the panel. Any
18 subsequent vacancy on the panel shall be filled by the Sec-
19 retary after soliciting 2 nominees from the National Insti-
20 tutes of Health and 2 nominees from the American Meat
21 Science Association. Nominees shall have a background in
22 public health issues and a scientific expertise in food,
23 meat, and poultry sciences or in veterinary science. The
24 Secretary may require nominees to submit such additional
25 information as the Secretary may deem necessary prior

1 to completing the selection process. Should any list of
2 nominees provided under this subsection be unsatisfactory,
3 the Secretary may request an additional set of nominees
4 from the nominating entities.

5 “(e) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the panel
6 shall receive per diem compensation at a rate not in excess
7 of that fixed for GS-18 of the General Schedule as may
8 be determined by the Secretary, except that any such
9 member who holds another office or position under the
10 Federal Government the compensation of which exceeds
11 such rate may elect to receive compensation at the rate
12 provided for such other office or position in lieu of the
13 compensation provided by this subsection.

14 “(f) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—The Secretary shall
15 promulgate regulations regarding conflicts of interest with
16 respect to the members of the panel.

17 “(g) PUBLICATION IN FEDERAL REGISTER.—Any re-
18 port of the panel to the Secretary shall be published in
19 the Federal Register.

20 “(h) SECRETARIAL RESPONSE.—Within 90 days of
21 the publication of a panel report under this section, the
22 Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register any re-
23 sponse required of the Secretary to that report.

1 “(i) FUNDING.—From funds available to the Sec-
2 retary, the Secretary shall allocate such sums as may be
3 necessary to carry out this section.”.

4 **SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

5 The Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451
6 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end thereof the fol-
7 lowing new section:

8 “SEC. . SAFE MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION
9 PANEL.—The advisory panel known as the ‘Safe Meat and
10 Poultry Inspection Panel’ established in section of the
11 Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.) shall also
12 review, evaluate and make comments and recommenda-
13 tions in the form of a report to the Secretary on the ade-
14 quacy, necessity, safety, cost-effectiveness, and scientific
15 merit of the following:

16 (1) Inspection procedures of, and work rules
17 and worker relations involving Federal employees
18 employed in, plants inspected under this Act.

19 (2) Informal petitions or proposals for changes
20 in inspection procedures, processes, or techniques of
21 plants inspected under this Act.

22 (3) Formal changes in poultry inspection regu-
23 lations, either in notice, proposed, or final form, pro-
24 mulgated by virtue of authority granted by this Act

1 and within the time limits prescribed for formal
2 comments on such changes.

3 (4) Such other matters as may be referred to
4 the panel by the Secretary regarding the quality or
5 effectiveness of a safe and cost-effective poultry in-
6 spection system under this Act.”.

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