

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1121

To amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to require retailers of beef, lamb, and pork to inform consumers, at the final point of sale to consumers, of the country of origin of the commodities.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 20, 2001

Mr. POMEROY (for himself, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to require retailers of beef, lamb, and pork to inform consumers, at the final point of sale to consumers, of the country of origin of the commodities.

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 “Country of Origin  
5 Meat Labeling Act of 2001”.

1 **SEC. 2. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING.**

2 The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C.  
3 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
4 lowing:

5 **“Subtitle C—Country of Origin**  
6 **Labeling**

7 **“SEC. 271. DEFINITIONS.**

8 “In this subtitle:

9 “(1) BEEF.—The term ‘beef’ means meat pro-  
10 duced from cattle (including veal).

11 “(2) COVERED COMMODITY.—The term ‘cov-  
12 ered commodity’ means—

13 “(A) muscle cuts of beef, lamb, and pork;  
14 and

15 “(B) ground beef, ground lamb, and  
16 ground pork.

17 “(3) FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT.—The  
18 term ‘food service establishment’ means a res-  
19 taurant, cafeteria, lunchroom, food stand, saloon,  
20 tavern, bar, lounge, or other similar facility operated  
21 as an enterprise engaged in the business of selling  
22 food to the public.

23 “(4) LAMB.—The term ‘lamb’ means meat,  
24 other than mutton, produced from sheep.

25 “(5) PORK.—The term ‘pork’ means meat pro-  
26 duced from hogs.

1           “(6) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
2           the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Ag-  
3           ricultural Marketing Service.

4   **“SEC. 272. NOTICE OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.**

5           “(a) IN GENERAL.—

6           “(1) REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided in  
7           subsection (b), a retailer of a covered commodity  
8           shall inform consumers, at the final point of sale of  
9           the covered commodity to consumers, of the country  
10          of origin of the covered commodity.

11          “(2) UNITED STATES COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.—A  
12          retailer of a covered commodity may designate the  
13          covered commodity as having a United States coun-  
14          try of origin only if the covered commodity is exclu-  
15          sively from an animal that is exclusively born,  
16          raised, and slaughtered in the United States.

17          “(b) EXEMPTION FOR FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISH-  
18          MENTS.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to a covered com-  
19          modity if the covered commodity is—

20                 “(1) prepared or served in a food service estab-  
21                 lishment; and

22                 “(2)(A) offered for sale or sold at the food serv-  
23                 ice establishment in normal retail quantities; or

24                 “(B) served to consumers at the food service es-  
25                 tablishment.

1 “(c) METHOD OF NOTIFICATION.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The information required  
3 by subsection (a) may be provided to consumers by  
4 means of a label, stamp, mark, placard, or other  
5 clear and visible sign on the covered commodity or  
6 on the package, display, holding unit, or bin con-  
7 taining the commodity at the final point of sale to  
8 consumers.

9 “(2) LABELED COMMODITIES.—If the covered  
10 commodity is already individually labeled for retail  
11 sale regarding country of origin, the retailer shall  
12 not be required to provide any additional informa-  
13 tion to comply with this section.

14 “(d) AUDIT VERIFICATION SYSTEM.—The Secretary  
15 may require that any person that prepares, stores, han-  
16 dles, or distributes a covered commodity for retail sale  
17 maintain a verifiable recordkeeping audit trail that will  
18 permit the Secretary to ensure compliance with the regula-  
19 tions promulgated under section 274.

20 “(e) INFORMATION.—Any person engaged in the  
21 business of supplying a covered commodity to a retailer  
22 shall provide information to the retailer indicating the  
23 country of origin of the covered commodity.

24 **“SEC. 273. ENFORCEMENT.**

25 “Section 253 shall apply to a violation of this subtitle.

1 **“SEC. 274. REGULATIONS.**

2       “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may promulgate  
3 such regulations as are necessary to carry out this subtitle.

4       “(b) PARTNERSHIPS WITH STATES.—In promul-  
5 gating the regulations, the Secretary shall, to the max-  
6 imum extent practicable, enter into partnerships with  
7 States with enforcement infrastructure to carry out this  
8 subtitle.

9 **“SEC. 275. APPLICATION.**

10       “‘This subtitle shall apply to the retail sale of a cov-  
11 ered commodity beginning 180 days after the date of the  
12 enactment of this subtitle.’”.

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