

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7818

To amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to allow interstate shipment of meat and meat food products inspected and passed under qualifying State programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 5, 2026

Mr. BURCHETT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to allow interstate shipment of meat and meat food products inspected and passed under qualifying State programs.

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 “American Meat Free-
5 dom Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) State meat inspection programs are author-
9 ized under section 301 of the Federal Meat Inspec-

tion Act (21 U.S.C. 661) if the Secretary of Agriculture determines that such programs impose requirements “at least equal to” those imposed under Federal inspection.

(2) Ranchers and small-scale meat producers operating under compliant State inspection programs are currently limited in their ability to access interstate markets.

(3) Allowing interstate shipment of meat and meat food products inspected under qualifying State programs will—

(A) expand market access for small and mid-sized ranchers;

(B) increase competition in meat processing;

(C) strengthen domestic food supply resilience; and

(D) maintain food safety standards equivalent to Federal inspection.

SEC. 3. INTERSTATE SHIPMENT OF STATE-INSPECTED MEAT.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 301(a)(1) of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 661(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “solely for distribution within such State”; and

1 (2) by adding at the end the following: “Meat
2 or meat food products may be shipped, transported,
3 offered for sale, or sold in interstate commerce if
4 such meat or meat food products were inspected and
5 passed under such a State meat inspection law, pro-
6 vided that—

7 “(A) the Secretary has determined on or
8 after the date that is 36 months before such
9 shipment, transportation, offering for sale, or
10 sale that the State meat inspection law meets
11 the requirements of the previous sentence;

12 “(B) the establishment that produced the
13 meat or meat food products has complied, with
14 respect to such meat or meat food products,
15 with all applicable requirements of such State
16 meat inspection law;

17 “(C) the meat or meat food product bears
18 labeling indicating that it was inspected and
19 passed under a State meat inspection program
20 for interstate shipment, transportation, and
21 sale; and

22 “(D) the State that enacted such meat in-
23 spection law has agreed to submit to periodic
24 audits by the Secretary.”.

1 (b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 90 days after the
2 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture
3 shall promulgate regulations to implement the amend-
4 ments made by subsection (a).

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