

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8596

To amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to ensure that consumers can make informed decisions in choosing between meat and poultry products and cell-cultivated protein products, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 2026

Mr. ALFORD (for himself, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, and Mr. WIED) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to ensure that consumers can make informed decisions in choosing between meat and poultry products and cell-cultivated protein products, and for other purposes.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Fair and Accurate In-
3 gredient Representation on Labels Act of 2026” or the
4 “FAIR Labels Act of 2026”.

5 **SEC. 2. REVISED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BE-**
6 **TWEEN SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND**
7 **SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERV-**
8 **ICES REGARDING REGULATION OF CELL-CUL-**
9 **TIVATED PROTEIN PRODUCT.**

10 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
11 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Sec-
12 retary of Health and Human Services shall jointly revise
13 the Memorandum of Understanding entitled “Formal
14 Agreement Between FDA and USDA Regarding Over-
15 sight of Human Food Produced Using Animal Cell Tech-
16 nology Derived from Cell Lines of USDA-amenable Spe-
17 cies” entered into March 7, 2019, so that with respect
18 to the regulation of cell-cultivated protein products—

19 (1) the Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct
20 such activities as are necessary to implement the
21 amendments made by this Act; and

22 (2) the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
23 ices shall—

24 (A) conduct premarket consultation proc-
25 esses to evaluate production materials and proc-
26 esses and manufacturing controls, including

1 oversight of tissue collection, cell lines and
2 banks, and all components and inputs;

3 (B) oversee the initial cell collection and
4 the development and maintenance of qualified
5 cell banks;

6 (C) oversee the proliferation and differen-
7 tiation of cells up to the time of harvest;

8 (D) ensure that the appropriate entities
9 comply with applicable requirements of the
10 Food and Drug Administration, including facil-
11 ity registration, the current good manufacturing
12 practices and preventive controls regulation,
13 and requirements applicable to substances that
14 become a component of food or otherwise affect
15 the characteristics of food;

16 (E) develop additional requirements for cell
17 bank and cell culturing facility conditions and
18 processes to ensure that biological material
19 exiting the culture process is safe; and

20 (F) conduct appropriate inspections and
21 follow-up activities, including taking enforce-
22 ment action if necessary, to ensure that cell
23 bank and cell culturing facilities are in compli-
24 ance with applicable laws (including regula-
25 tions).

1 **SEC. 3. REGULATION OF CELL-CULTIVATED PROTEIN**
2 **PRODUCTS BY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.**

3 (a) CELL-CULTIVATED PROTEIN PRODUCTS.—

4 (1) DEFINITION.—Section 1 of the Federal
5 Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601) is amended by
6 adding at the end the following:

7 “(x) The term ‘cell-cultivated protein product’ means
8 any product capable of use as human food that—

9 “(1) is made wholly or in part from any cell
10 culture or the DNA of an amenable species using
11 animal cell culture technology; and

12 “(2) is grown or cultivated outside of the live
13 animal from which the cell culture or DNA was ac-
14 quired.”.

15 (2) MISBRANDING.—Section 1(n)(3) of the
16 Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601(n)(3))
17 is amended to read as follows:

18 “(3) if it is a cell-cultivated protein, unless its
19 label—

20 “(A) clearly indicates in a prominent, con-
21 spicuous, and legible manner the words ‘cell-
22 cultivated’, in type of uniform size and promi-
23 nence, immediately adjacent to the name of the
24 food so as to render it likely to be read and un-
25 derstood by the ordinary individual under cus-
26 tomary conditions of purchase and use;

1 “(B) bears a statement that the cell-cul-
2 tivated protein product is derived from sources
3 other than meat, in type of uniform size and
4 prominence, immediately adjacent to the name
5 of the food; and

6 “(C) bears a disclaimer that clearly indi-
7 cates that the cell-cultivated protein product in
8 its final product form is not derived from, or
9 does not contain, naturally produced meat from
10 a live amenable species;”.

11 (3) APPLICABILITY.—Section 25 of the Federal
12 Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 625) is amended—

13 (A) by striking “Notwithstanding” and in-
14 serting “(a) Notwithstanding”; and

15 (B) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(b) The requirements of this Act shall apply with
17 respect to cell-cultivated protein products in the same
18 manner as such requirements apply to meat and meat food
19 products.”.

20 (b) CELL-CULTIVATED POULTRY PRODUCTS.—

21 (1) DEFINITION.—Section 4 of the Poultry
22 Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 453) is amended
23 by adding at the following:

24 “(cc) The term ‘cell-cultivated protein product’
25 means any product capable of use as human food that—

1 “(1) is made wholly or in part from any cell
2 culture or the DNA of a live bird using animal cell
3 culture technology; and

4 “(2) is grown or cultivated outside of the live
5 bird from which the cell culture or DNA was ac-
6 quired.”.

7 (2) MISBRANDING.—Section 4(h)(3) of the
8 Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.
9 453(h)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

10 “(3) if it is a cell-cultivated protein product,
11 unless its label—

12 “(A) clearly indicates in a prominent, con-
13 spicuous, and legible manner the words ‘cell-
14 cultivated’, in type of uniform size and promi-
15 nence, immediately adjacent to the name of the
16 food so as to render it likely to be read and un-
17 derstood by the ordinary individual under cus-
18 tomary conditions of purchase and use;

19 “(B) bears a statement that the cell-cul-
20 tivated protein product is derived from sources
21 other than poultry, in type of uniform size and
22 prominence, immediately adjacent to the name
23 of the food; and

24 “(C) bears a disclaimer that clearly indi-
25 cates that the cell-cultivated protein product in

1 its final product form is not derived from, or
2 does not contain, a live amenable bird;”.

3 (3) APPLICABILITY.—Section 18 of the Poultry
4 Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 467a) is amend-
5 ed by adding at the end the following:

6 “(d) The requirements of this Act shall apply with
7 respect to cell-cultivated protein products in the same
8 manner as such requirements apply to poultry and poultry
9 products.”.

10 (c) PLANT-BASED ALTERNATIVE PROTEIN PROD-
11 UCT.—The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21
12 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) is amended—

13 (1) in section 201 (21 U.S.C. 321), by adding
14 at the end the following:

15 “(tt) The term ‘plant-based alternative protein prod-
16 uct’ means any food product that—

17 “(1) is made wholly or in part from any plant
18 species;

19 “(2) approximates the aesthetic qualities (pri-
20 marily texture, flavor, and appearance) of meat,
21 poultry, or a food product thereof; and

22 “(3) is manufactured to appear as meat, poul-
23 try, or a food product thereof.”; and

24 (2) in section 403 (21 U.S.C. 343), by adding
25 at the end the following:

1 “(z) If it is a plant-based alternative protein product,
2 unless its label—

3 “(1) bears, in type of uniform size and promi-
4 nence, the phrase ‘plant-based alternative protein
5 product’ and, immediately thereafter, the name of
6 the food; and

7 “(2) in a prominently placed, conspicuous, and
8 legible manner so as to render it likely to be read
9 and understood by the ordinary individual under
10 customary conditions of purchase and use, bears a
11 statement that clearly indicates that the product is
12 not derived from, or does not contain, naturally pro-
13 duced meat or poultry from a live animal or bird
14 species.”.

15 (d) STANDARDS OF IDENTITY.—Not later than 180
16 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
17 retary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Secretary
18 of Health and Human Services, shall develop common
19 standards of identity for cell-cultivated protein products
20 and plant-based alternative protein products that are con-
21 sistent with the definitions specified in section 1 of the
22 Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601), section 4
23 of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 453),
24 and section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic

1 Act (21 U.S.C. 301), respectively, as amended by this sec-
2 tion.

