

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**REVISED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 22-1018.01 Jery Payne x2157

**SENATE BILL 22-209**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Donovan and Sonnenberg,** Bridges, Buckner, Coram, Fields, Gardner, Hinrichsen, Holbert, Jaquez Lewis, Kolker, Lee, Rankin, Simpson, Story

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Roberts and Pelton,**

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**Senate Committees**

Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Appropriations

**House Committees**

Business Affairs & Labor  
Appropriations

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING EXPANDING SMALL MEAT PROCESSING IN COLORADO BY**  
102 **PROVIDING BUSINESS APPLICATION ASSISTANCE TO OBTAIN**  
103 **CAPITAL, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN**  
104 **APPROPRIATION.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill instructs the commissioner of agriculture to hire an employee or engage a contractor to provide grant and loan application assistance to small meat processors or people attempting to start a small

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

HOUSE  
2nd Reading Unamended  
May 10, 2022

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
April 27, 2022

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
April 26, 2022

meat processor business. The grant or loan must be used to start, expand, or support a small meat processor business. The employee or contractor may also assist agricultural producers and agricultural businesses in applying for and obtaining grants.

The grant and loan application assistance program repeals on July 1, 2024.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 35-1-116 as  
3 follows:

4 **35-1-116. Meat processing - grant and loan application**  
5 **assistance - definitions - legislative declaration - repeal.**

6 (1) **Legislative declaration.** THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS AND  
7 DECLARES THAT:

8 (a) CATTLE PRODUCTION IS THE LARGEST COMPONENT OF  
9 COLORADO'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, AND BEEF IS COLORADO'S LARGEST  
10 EXPORT;

11 (b) THE PRODUCTION AND SALE OF FEEDER AND LIVE CATTLE BY  
12 COLORADO'S INDIVIDUAL PRODUCERS CONTRIBUTES THREE BILLION SEVEN  
13 HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS TO THE STATE'S ECONOMY;

14 (c) INDIVIDUAL PRODUCERS IN COLORADO ARE DEPENDENT ON THE  
15 PRICE THAT PROCESSORS AND PACKERS ARE WILLING TO PAY FOR FED  
16 CATTLE;

17 (d) INDIVIDUAL PRODUCERS HAVE NOT SEEN AN EQUITABLE  
18 RETURN FOR THEIR CATTLE IN COMPARISON TO PROCESSOR AND PACKER  
19 PROFITS;

20 (e) THE UNITED STATES BEEF PROCESSING MARKET IS HIGHLY  
21 CONCENTRATED, WITH THE FOUR LARGEST BEEF PROCESSORS  
22 CONTROLLING OVER EIGHTY PERCENT OF UNITED STATES BEEF

1 PROCESSING, LEADING TO LARGE PROFIT MARGINS;

2 (f) SMALL, INDEPENDENT MEAT PROCESSORS CAN SERVE AS AN  
3 ALTERNATIVE TO THE LARGE MEAT PROCESSORS AND INTRODUCE  
4 COMPETITION IN THE MARKET;

5 (g) ON FEBRUARY 24, 2021, THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENT  
6 SIGNED EXECUTIVE ORDER 14017, WHICH DECLARES, "THE UNITED  
7 STATES NEEDS RESILIENT, DIVERSE, AND SECURE SUPPLY CHAINS TO  
8 ENSURE OUR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND NATIONAL SECURITY";

9 (h) ON FEBRUARY 24, 2022, THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
10 AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL MAKE TWO  
11 HUNDRED FIFTEEN MILLION DOLLARS AVAILABLE FOR GRANTS AND OTHER  
12 SUPPORT TO EXPAND MEAT PROCESSING OPTIONS, STRENGTHEN THE FOOD  
13 SUPPLY CHAIN, AND CREATE JOBS AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN  
14 RURAL AREAS;

15 (i) THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY IN THE UNITED STATES  
16 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CREATED THE MEAT AND POULTRY  
17 PROCESSING EXPANSION PROGRAM, WHICH IS OFFERING GRANTS OF UP TO  
18 TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS TO EXPAND MEAT AND POULTRY  
19 PROCESSING; AND

20 (j) EXPANDING SMALL MEAT PROCESSING BUSINESSES WILL  
21 BENEFIT COLORADO'S AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS, ECONOMY, AND  
22 CONSUMERS.

23 (2) **Grant and loan application assistance.** (a) THE  
24 COMMISSIONER SHALL HIRE ONE EMPLOYEE OR ENGAGE A CONTRACTOR TO  
25 HELP SMALL MEAT PROCESSORS AND PEOPLE ATTEMPTING TO START A  
26 SMALL MEAT PROCESSOR BUSINESS APPLY FOR AND OBTAIN GRANTS AND  
27 LOANS OFFERED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1 AND OTHER ENTITIES. EACH GRANT OR LOAN MUST BE USED TO START,  
2 EXPAND, OR SUPPORT A SMALL MEAT PROCESSOR BUSINESS.

3 (b) IF THE EMPLOYEE OR CONTRACTOR HIRED OR ENGAGED BY THE  
4 COMMISSIONER IS ABLE, AFTER PERFORMING THE DUTIES DESCRIBED IN  
5 SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE EMPLOYEE OR CONTRACTOR MAY  
6 ASSIST AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS AND AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES IN  
7 APPLYING FOR AND OBTAINING GRANTS FROM THE UNITED STATES  
8 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND OTHER ENTITIES.

9 (3) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "SMALL MEAT PROCESSOR" MEANS  
10 A BUSINESS THAT:

11 (a) EMPLOYS FIVE HUNDRED OR FEWER INDIVIDUALS; AND

12 (b) SLAUGHTERS, DRESSES, CUTS, PREPARES, TRIMS, WRAPS, OR  
13 PACKAGES AN ANIMAL, MEAT, OR MEAT PRODUCT FROM AN ANIMAL.

14 (4) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024.

15 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2022-23 state fiscal year,  
16 \$62,885 is appropriated to the department of agriculture for use by the  
17 agricultural markets division. This appropriation is from the general fund  
18 and is based on an assumption that the division will require an additional  
19 0.9 FTE. To implement this act, the division may use this appropriation  
20 for program costs related to agricultural markets.

21 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
22 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
23 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.