

First Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

REVISED

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

LLS NO. 25-0830.01 Richard Sweetman x4333

**HOUSE BILL 25-1203**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT, AND, IN CONNECTION**  
102         **THEREWITH, PROHIBITING THE MISBRANDING OF**  
103         **CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT AS A MEAT PRODUCT AND REQUIRING**  
104         **CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT TO BE CLEARLY LABELED AS**  
105         **CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT.**

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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 prohibits food processing plants from selling or offering for sale cell-cultivated meat that is misbranded as a meat product. The bill

SENATE  
2nd Reading Unamended  
March 25, 2025

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
March 10, 2025

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
March 7, 2025

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

also requires food processing plants to clearly label cell-cultivated meat as cell-cultivated meat.

The department of public health and environment (department) is required to inspect food at a food processing plant if the department has reasonable cause to believe that:

- Cell-cultivated meat sold or offered for sale by the plant is misbranded as a meat product; or
- The plant is failing to label cell-cultivated meat as required.

If, after an inspection, the department has reasonable cause to believe that a food processing plant is selling or offering for sale cell-cultivated meat that is misbranded as a meat product, or is failing to label cell-cultivated meat as required, the department may issue a stop order. Upon being issued the stop order, the food processing plant shall not sell the product or offer it for sale until the department determines whether it is misbranded or unlabeled in violation of the bill.

If the department determines that a food processing plant is selling or offering for sale cell-cultivated meat that is misbranded as a meat product, or is failing to label cell-cultivated meat as required, the department may issue an embargo order requiring the food processing plant to dispose of the cell-cultivated meat by means other than by sale to purchasers in Colorado.

The department, the attorney general, or the district attorney in the district where cell-cultivated meat is being offered for sale or sold may petition the district court to enforce a stop order or an embargo order.

The department may adopt rules as necessary to implement the bill.

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

2           **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3     finds that:

4           (a) For generations, Colorado stock growers have raised  
5     high-quality meat products that feed families across the state and the  
6     nation;

7           (b) Livestock production is not just an industry in Colorado; it is  
8     a proud tradition woven into the very fabric of the state's history; and

9           (c) Agriculture remains the lifeblood of rural Colorado, driving  
10    local economies while preserving a rich heritage that rural Coloradans  
11    embrace with pride.

6                   **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-5-411, **amend** (1)  
7                   introductory portion; and **add** (1)(q) and (1)(r) as follows:

8                   **25-5-411. Definitions of "misbranding".** (1) A food shall be IS  
9                   deemed to be misbranded:

10 (q) IF THE FOOD IS CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT OR CONTAINS  
11 CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT AND IS MISBRANDED AS A MEAT PRODUCT IN  
12 VIOLATION OF SECTION 25-5-428; OR

13 (r) IF THE FOOD IS CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT OR CONTAINS  
14 CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT AND IS NOT CLEARLY LABELED AS  
15 CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT IN VIOLATION OF SECTION 25-5-428.

16                   **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 25-5-428 as  
17 follows:

**25-5-428. Misbranding of cell-cultivated meat as meat product prohibited - labeling of cell-cultivated meat required - definitions - inspections - stop orders - embargo orders - enforcement - rules.**

21 (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
22 REQUIRES:

23 (a) "AGRICULTURAL FOOD ANIMAL" MEANS:

24 (I) A DOMESTICATED ANIMAL BELONGING TO THE BOVINE,  
25 CAPRINE, OVINE, OR PORCINE SPECIES; OR

26 (III) A LIVE DOMESTIC CHICKEN OR TURKEY.

27 (b) "CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT" MEANS FOOD HAVING ONE OR MORE

1 SENSORY ATTRIBUTES THAT RESEMBLES A TYPE OF TISSUE ORIGINATING  
2 FROM AN AGRICULTURAL FOOD ANIMAL BUT THAT, IN LIEU OF BEING  
3 DERIVED FROM MEAT PROCESSING, IS DERIVED FROM MANUFACTURING  
4 CELLS, IN WHICH ONE OR MORE STEM CELLS ARE INITIALLY ISOLATED FROM  
5 AN AGRICULTURAL FOOD ANIMAL, ARE GROWN IN VITRO, AND MAY BE  
6 MANIPULATED AS PART OF A MANUFACTURING OPERATION.

7 (c) "FOOD PROCESSING PLANT" MEANS A COMMERCIAL OPERATION  
8 THAT MANUFACTURES, PACKAGES, LABELS, OR STORES FOOD FOR HUMAN  
9 CONSUMPTION AND DOES NOT PROVIDE FOOD DIRECTLY TO A CONSUMER.

10 (d) "IDENTIFYING MEAT TERM" MEANS ANY WORD OR PHRASE THAT  
11 STATES, INDICATES, SUGGESTS, OR DESCRIBES A MEAT PRODUCT,  
12 REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE WORD OR PHRASE IS USED INDIVIDUALLY,  
13 AS A PORTMANTEAU, OR AS A COMPOUND WORD. "IDENTIFYING MEAT  
14 TERM" INCLUDES:

15 (I) A COMMON NAME FOR THE SPECIES OF THE AGRICULTURAL  
16 FOOD ANIMAL SUBJECT TO SLAUGHTER AND PROCESSING, INCLUDING A  
17 CALF OR COW, CHICKEN, GOAT OR KID, HOG OR PIG, POULTRY, LAMB OR  
18 SHEEP, OR TURKEY;

19 (II) A COMMON NAME FOR A CHARACTERISTIC OF A SPECIES OF THE  
20 AGRICULTURAL FOOD ANIMAL SUBJECT TO SLAUGHTER AND PROCESSING  
21 BASED ON AGE, BREED, OR SEX;

22 (III) BEEF OR VEAL; BROILER, FRYER, POULET, OR YEARLING;  
23 CABRITO OR CHEVON; LAMB OR MUTTON; OR PORK;

24 (IV) A COMMON NAME USED TO DESCRIBE A MAJOR CUT OF THE  
25 MEAT OF AN AGRICULTURAL FOOD ANIMAL SLAUGHTERED AND  
26 PROCESSED, INCLUDING A MAJOR MEAT CUT SPECIFIED IN 9 CFR 317.344;

27 (V) A POULTRY PRODUCT SUCH AS BREAST, DRUMSTICK, GIBLET,

1       THIGH, OR WING;

2           (VI) THE COMMON NAME OF AN ORGAN OR OFFAL, INCLUDING  
3       GIZZARD, HEART, LIVER, KIDNEY, OR TONGUE; AND

4           (VII) ANY OTHER COMMON NAME THAT A REASONABLE  
5       PURCHASER WOULD IMMEDIATELY AND EXCLUSIVELY ASSOCIATE WITH A  
6       MEAT PRODUCT PREPARED FOR SALE IN NORMAL COMMERCIAL CHANNELS,  
7       SUCH AS BACON, BALONEY, BOLOGNA, BONE, BRAT OR BRATWURST,  
8       BRISKET, BURGER OR HAMBURGER, BUTT, CHOP, CHUCK, COLD CUT,  
9       CUTLET, FILET, FLAT IRON, FRANK OR FRANKFURTER, HAM, HOCK, HOT  
10      DOG, JERKY, LIVERWURST, LOIN, LONDON BROIL, LUNCH MEAT, NEW YORK  
11      STRIP, PEPPERONI, PORTERHOUSE, RIBEYE, ROAST, RIB OR SPARERIB,  
12      SALAMI, SAUSAGE, SHANK, SIRLOIN, TENDERLOIN, OR A COMPARABLE  
13      WORD OR PHRASE THE DEPARTMENT ADOPTS BY RULE.

14           (e) "MEAT PROCESSING" MEANS THE HANDLING, PREPARATION,  
15       AND SLAUGHTER OF AN AGRICULTURAL FOOD ANIMAL; THE DRESSING OF  
16       ITS CARCASS; OR THE CUTTING, STORAGE, AND PACKAGING OF ITS TISSUE  
17       OR OTHER PARTS AS FOOD.

18           (f) "MEAT PRODUCT" MEANS FOOD DERIVED FROM MEAT  
19       PROCESSING.

20           (g) (I) "MISBRANDED AS A MEAT PRODUCT" MEANS THAT  
21       CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT OR A FOOD CONTAINING CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT:

22           (A) IS SOLD OR OFFERED FOR SALE BY A FOOD PROCESSING PLANT;  
23       AND

24           (B) BEARS A LABEL THAT INCLUDES AN IDENTIFYING MEAT TERM.

25           (II) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (1)(g)(I) OF THIS SECTION,  
26       CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT OR A FOOD CONTAINING CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT  
27       IS NOT MISBRANDED AS A MEAT PRODUCT IF:

4 (B) THE PRODUCT CONTAINS NO MORE THAN A TRACE AMOUNT OF  
5 CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT, AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

6 (h) "QUALIFYING TERM" MEANS A WORD, COMPOUND WORD, OR  
7 PHRASE THAT WOULD CLEARLY DISCLOSE TO A REASONABLE PURCHASER  
8 OF MEAT PRODUCTS FROM A FOOD PROCESSING PLANT THAT A FOOD IS NOT  
9 A MEAT PRODUCT. "QUALIFYING TERM" INCLUDES "CELL-CULTIVATED",  
10 "CELL-CULTURED", ■ "GROWN IN A LAB", "IMITATION", "LAB-CREATED",  
11 "LAB-GROWN", "MEAT FREE", "MEATLESS", AND A COMPARABLE WORD OR  
12 PHRASE ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT BY RULE.

13 (2) A FOOD PROCESSING PLANT SHALL NOT SELL OR OFFER FOR  
14 SALE CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT THAT IS MISBRANDED AS A MEAT PRODUCT.

15 (3) A FOOD PROCESSING PLANT THAT SELLS OR OFFERS FOR SALE  
16 CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT SHALL ENSURE THAT EACH UNIT OF THE  
17 CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT BEARS A LABEL THAT DESCRIBES THE PRODUCT  
18 AS "CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT" IN CLEAR, LEGIBLE TYPE.

23 (a) CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT SOLD OR OFFERED FOR SALE BY THE  
24 FOOD PROCESSING PLANT IS MISBRANDED AS A MEAT PRODUCT; OR

25 (b) THE FOOD PROCESSING PLANT IS FAILING TO LABEL  
26 CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT AS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS  
27 SECTION.

20 (c) THE DEPARTMENT, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, OR THE DISTRICT  
21 ATTORNEY IN THE DISTRICT WHERE CELL-CULTIVATED MEAT IS BEING  
22 OFFERED FOR SALE OR SOLD MAY PETITION THE DISTRICT COURT TO  
23 ENFORCE A STOP ORDER ISSUED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (5)(a) OF THIS  
24 SECTION OR AN EMBARGO ORDER ISSUED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (5)(b)  
25 OF THIS SECTION.

26 (6) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT RULES AS NECESSARY TO  
27 IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

1                   **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date -**  
2                   **applicability.** (1) This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following  
3                   the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the  
4                   general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant  
5                   to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an  
6                   item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item,  
7                   section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the  
8                   general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take  
9                   effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the  
10                   governor.

11                   (2) This act applies to food labeled or packaged on or after the  
12                   applicable effective date of this act.