



2018-12

State of Colorado

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST FOR INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE

To: Legislative Council

Requested by: Representative Lewis
With support of: Senator Marble

Re: Request for interim committee regarding the lack of slaughterhouses in rural Colorado.

Date: April 13, 2018

Information Required Pursuant to Section 2-3-303.3, C.R.S.

I hereby request that an interim study committee be formed to study the need for more slaughterhouses in rural Colorado during the interim between the 2018 and 2019 legislative sessions. The interim study committee would be named the "Colorado Slaughterhouse Interim Committee."

The policy issue to be studied is whether the state meat inspection program could cover small-capacity slaughter facilities that process cattle born and raised in Colorado for the sale of beef solely within Colorado. Currently, there are very few USDA certified plants located in rural areas of Colorado. In order for a producer to sell processed meat products to a person, the meat must be processed by a USDA-certified slaughterhouse. There is an increased demand by Colorado consumers to purchase local beef, but most Colorado cattle producers do not have a means to get their cattle processed.

The interim study committee would need to meet two times to study the issues.

The interim study committee should consist of eight members of the General Assembly selected as follows:

- four members of the Senate, with two appointed by the President of the Senate and two appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; and
- four members of the House of Representatives, with two appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and two appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

The chair of the interim study committee will be the appointee of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the vice-chair will be the appointee of the President of the Senate.

The appointments must be made by June 1, 2018.

Four nonlegislative members will assist the interim study committee in providing information about the need for more USDA-certified slaughterhouses in rural Colorado. Nonlegislative members shall not be permitted to vote on any matter; rather, the nonlegislative members shall use their expertise to inform the interim study committee in its deliberations. The nonlegislative members of the interim study committee shall include:

- two slaughterhouse owners to be appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture or his designee; and
- two cattle producers to be appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture or his designee.

The interim study committee may require, at most, one bill to address the issues it studies.

Additional Information Related to the Interim Study Committee Request

The Department of Agriculture may be called upon to provide assistance or information to the interim study committee.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.