

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1648

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to amend certain regulations to clarify that livestock auction owners may have an interest in small meatpacking businesses, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2025

Mr. ALFORD (for himself, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. GRAVES, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. FINSTAD, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to amend certain regulations to clarify that livestock auction owners may have an interest in small meatpacking businesses, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Amplifying Processing  
5 of Livestock in the United States Act” or the “A-PLUS  
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AMPLIFYING PROCESSING OF LIVESTOCK IN THE**  
2 **UNITED STATES (A- PLUS).**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall revise  
5 section 201.67 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, as  
6 in effect on January 1, 2025, to specify that—

7 (1) market agencies may have an ownership in-  
8 terest in, finance, or participate in the management  
9 or operation of, a packer, so long as such packer—

10 (A) with respect to cattle and sheep, has a  
11 cumulative slaughter capacity of less than—

12 (i) 2,000 animals per day; or

13 (ii) 700,000 animals per year; and

14 (B) with respect to hogs, has a cumulative  
15 slaughter capacity of less than—

16 (i) 10,000 animals per day; or

17 (ii) 3,000,000 animals per year; and

18 (2) market agencies that have an ownership in-  
19 terest in, finance, or participate in the management  
20 or operation of, a packer shall disclose to sellers of  
21 livestock the existence of such ownership interest, fi-  
22 nancial relationship, or participation.

23 (b) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall  
24 be interpreted as a limitation on the authority of the Sec-  
25 retary to adopt or enforce rules or regulations under the  
26 Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 181 et seq.)

- 1 related to the protection of producers, competition, market
- 2 integrity, or the prevention of conflicts of interest.

