

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1144

To amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to require that all meat and meat food products, whether domestic or imported, bear a label notifying the ultimate purchaser of meat and meat food products of the country of origin of the livestock that is the source of the meat and meat food products.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 1999

Mrs. CHENOWETH (for herself, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mrs. BONO, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. PHELPS, Mr. MICA, Mr. HERGER, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. HILL of Montana, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. HUNTER, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. WELLER, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. REGULA, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. COBURN, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. THUNE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to require that all meat and meat food products, whether domestic or imported, bear a label notifying the ultimate purchaser of meat and meat food products of the country of origin of the livestock that is the source of the meat and meat food products.

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 “Country-of-Origin  
3 Meat Labeling Act of 1999”.

4 **SEC. 2. COUNTRY-OF-ORIGIN LABELING OF MEAT AND  
5 MEAT FOOD PRODUCTS.**

6 (a) **LABELING REQUIRED.**—The Federal Meat In-  
7 spection Act is amended by inserting after section 7 (21  
8 U.S.C. 607) the following new section:

9 **“SEC. 7A. REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO COUNTRY-OF-ORI-**

10 **GIN LABELING.**

11 “(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

12 “(1) **LIVESTOCK.**—The term ‘livestock’ means  
13 cattle, sheep, swine, goats, horses, mules, or other  
14 equines.

15 “(2) **DOMESTIC MEAT.**—The term ‘domestic  
16 meat’ means a carcass, part of a carcass, meat, or  
17 meat food product derived entirely from domestic  
18 livestock.

19 “(3) **DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK.**—The term ‘domes-  
20 tic livestock’ means livestock that satisfy all of the  
21 following:

22 “(A) The animal is born in the United  
23 States.

24 “(B) The animal is raised throughout its  
25 entire life in the United States.

1                   “(C) The animal is slaughtered and other-  
2                   wise processed in the United States.

3                   “(4) IMPORTED MEAT.—The term ‘imported  
4                   meat’ means a carcass, part of a carcass, meat, or  
5                   meat food product that does not satisfy the defini-  
6                   tion of domestic meat.

7                   “(5) IMPORTED LIVESTOCK.—The term ‘im-  
8                   ported livestock’ means livestock that does not sat-  
9                   isfy the definition of domestic livestock.

10                  “(6) ULTIMATE PURCHASER.—

11                  “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘ultimate  
12                  purchaser’, with regard to a carcass, part of a  
13                  carcass, meat, or meat food product, means—

14                  “(i) a person who buys the item for  
15                  consumption;

16                  “(ii) a public or private institution  
17                  that serves the item for consumption; or

18                  “(iii) a restaurant or other food serv-  
19                  ice establishment that serves the item for  
20                  consumption.

21                  “(B) EXCEPTION.—Other than as provided  
22                  in clauses (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (A), the  
23                  term does not include a person who buys a car-  
24                  cass, part of a carcass, meat, or meat food  
25                  product for resale.

## 1       “(b) COUNTRY-OF-ORIGIN LABEL REQUIRED.—

2               “(1) PURPOSE.—Country-of-origin labels are  
3       required under this section so that the ultimate pur-  
4       chasers of meat and meat food products in the  
5       United States are accurately informed of the country  
6       of origin of the livestock from which meat and meat  
7       food products are derived.8               “(2) INITIAL USE OF LIVESTOCK.—A packer or  
9       processor that uses livestock to produce a carcass,  
10       part of a carcass, meat, or meat food product that  
11       is offered for sale, sold, or resold within the United  
12       States, either in its original form or in a further  
13       processed form, shall affix a label to the carcass,  
14       part of a carcass, meat, or meat food product that  
15       identifies the country or countries in which the live-  
16       stock were born, raised, and slaughtered from which  
17       the carcass, part of a carcass, meat, or meat food  
18       product was derived.19               “(3) USE OF DOMESTIC MEAT OR IMPORTED  
20       MEAT.—A packer or processor that uses domestic  
21       meat or imported meat to produce a carcass, part of  
22       a carcass, meat, or meat food product that is offered  
23       for sale, sold, or resold within the United States, ei-  
24       ther in its original form or in a further processed  
25       form, shall affix a label to the carcass, part of a car-

1       cass, meat, or meat food product that identifies the  
2       country or countries in which the livestock were  
3       born, raised, and slaughtered from which the domes-  
4       tic meat or imported meat was derived.

5       “(c) MAINTENANCE OF LABEL.—

6           “(1) IN GENERAL.—A packer or processor re-  
7       ferred to in subsection (b), and each subsequent re-  
8       seller of the carcass, part of a carcass, meat, or  
9       meat food product, shall be responsible for ensuring  
10       that the country-of-origin label is maintained  
11       throughout the chain of distribution until the car-  
12       cass, carcass part, meat, or meat food product is  
13       sold to the ultimate purchaser.

14           “(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Institutions that serve  
15       meat or meat food products for consumption and  
16       restaurants and other food service establishments  
17       shall neither be required to, nor restricted from, no-  
18       tifying their customers of the country of origin of  
19       the meat or meat food products they serve.

20       “(d) RESTRICTION ON USE OF UNITED STATES  
21       MEAT LABEL.—A carcass, part of a carcass, meat, or  
22       meat food product may not bear a label identifying the  
23       carcass, part of a carcass, meat, or meat food product as  
24       United States meat unless it consists entirely of domestic  
25       meat.

1       “(e) TREATMENT OF IMPORTED MEAT AND IM-  
2 PORTED LIVESTOCK.—In the case of imported meat, the  
3 country-of-origin label required by this section shall also  
4 identify the country or countries from which the livestock,  
5 carcass, part of a carcass, meat, or meat food product (as  
6 the case may be) was imported into the United States.  
7 In the case of live imported livestock imported into the  
8 United States for slaughter, whether fed for a time in the  
9 United States and slaughtered or imported only for  
10 slaughter, the country-of-origin label shall also identify the  
11 country or countries from which the livestock were im-  
12 ported into the United States.

13       “(f) TREATMENT OF BLENDED PRODUCTS.—In the  
14 case of a blended meat or meat food product, the country-  
15 of-origin label required by this section shall list the coun-  
16 try or countries of origin of the livestock from which the  
17 blended meat or meat food product was derived, in de-  
18 scending order of predominance therein.

19       “(g) LABEL DESCRIPTION AND PLACEMENT.—In the  
20 case of a carcass, part of a carcass, meat, or meat food  
21 product offered for sale to an ultimate purchaser, the  
22 country-of-origin label shall be placed on the carcass, part  
23 of the carcass, meat, or meat food product, or its imme-  
24 diate package or container, in such a location that the  
25 label is clearly visible to the ultimate purchaser. The coun-

1 try-of-origin lettering shall be of a size at least equal to  
2 other lettering contained on the carcass, meat, or meat  
3 food product, or its immediate package or container.

4        "(h) RELATION TO INSPECTION STAMP.—An inspec-  
5 tion stamp required under section 7 shall not be a sub-  
6 stitute for the country-of-origin label, and shall not be rep-  
7 resented by anyone as proof or certification of the country  
8 of origin of the livestock from which a carcass, part of  
9 a carcass, meat, or meat food product is derived.”.

10        (b) INCLUSION OF COUNTRY-OF-ORIGIN REQUIRE-  
11 MENTS IN DEFINITION OF MISBRANDED.—Section 1(n) of  
12 the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601(n)) is  
13 amended—

14            (1) by striking “or” at the end of paragraph  
15 (11);

16            (2) by striking the period at the end of para-  
17 graph (12) and inserting “; or”; and

18            (3) by adding at the end the following new  
19 paragraph:

20            “(13) if it fails to bear a country-of-origin label  
21 as required by section 7A.”.

22        (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
23 this section shall take effect 60 days after the date of en-  
24 actment of this Act.

