

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 242

To amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to require the labeling of imported meat and meat food products.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 19, 1999

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. ENZI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to require the labeling of imported 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Meat Labeling Act of
5 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. LABELING OF IMPORTED MEAT AND MEAT FOOD**
7 **PRODUCTS.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1 of the Federal Meat In-
9 spection Act (21 U.S.C. 601) is amended by adding at
10 the end the following:

1 “(w) BEEF.—The term ‘beef’ means meat pro-
2 duced from cattle (including veal).

3 “(x) IMPORTED BEEF.—The term ‘imported
4 beef’ means beef that is not United States beef,
5 whether or not the beef is graded with a quality
6 grade issued by the Secretary.

7 “(y) IMPORTED LAMB.—The term ‘imported
8 lamb’ means lamb that is not United States lamb,
9 whether or not the lamb is graded with a quality
10 grade issued by the Secretary.

11 “(z) IMPORTED PORK.—The term ‘imported
12 pork’ means pork that is not United States pork.

13 “(aa) LAMB.—The term ‘lamb’ means meat,
14 other than mutton, produced from sheep.

15 “(bb) PORK.—The term ‘pork’ means meat pro-
16 duced from hogs.

17 “(cc) UNITED STATES BEEF.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘United
19 States beef’ means beef produced from cattle
20 slaughtered in the United States.

21 “(2) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘United
22 States beef’ does not include beef produced
23 from cattle imported into the United States in
24 sealed trucks for slaughter.

25 “(dd) UNITED STATES LAMB.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘United
2 States lamb’ means lamb produced from sheep
3 slaughtered in the United States.

4 “(2) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘United
5 States lamb’ does not include lamb produced
6 from sheep imported into the United States in
7 sealed trucks for slaughter.

8 “(ee) UNITED STATES PORK.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘United
10 States pork’ means pork produced from hogs
11 slaughtered in the United States.

12 “(2) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘United
13 States pork’ does not include pork produced
14 from hogs imported into the United States in
15 sealed trucks for slaughter.”.

16 (b) MISBRANDING.—Section 1(n) of the Federal
17 Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601(n)) is amended—

18 (1) in paragraph (11), by striking “or” at the
19 end;

20 (2) in paragraph (12), by striking the period at
21 the end and inserting “; or”; and

22 (3) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(13)(A) if it is imported beef, imported lamb,
24 or imported pork offered for retail sale as muscle

1 cuts of beef, lamb, or pork and does not bear a label
2 that identifies its country of origin;

3 “(B) if it is United States beef, United States
4 lamb, or United States pork offered for retail sale as
5 muscle cuts of beef, lamb, or pork, and does not
6 bear a label that identifies its country of origin; or

7 “(C) if it is United States or imported ground
8 beef, ground lamb, or ground pork and is not accom-
9 panied by labeling that identifies it as United States
10 beef, United States lamb, United States pork, im-
11 ported beef, imported lamb, imported pork, or other
12 designation that identifies the content of United
13 States beef, imported beef, United States lamb, im-
14 ported lamb, United States pork, and imported pork
15 contained in the product, as determined by the Sec-
16 retary.”.

17 (c) LABELING.—Section 7 of the Federal Meat In-
18 spection Act (21 U.S.C. 607) is amended by adding at
19 the end the following:

20 “(g) MANDATORY LABELING.—The Secretary shall
21 provide by regulation that the following offered for retail
22 sale bear a label that identifies its country of origin:

23 “(1) Muscle cuts of United States beef, United
24 States lamb, United States pork, imported beef, im-
25 ported lamb, and imported pork.

1 “(2) Ground beef, ground lamb, and ground
2 pork.

3 “(h) AUDIT VERIFICATION SYSTEM FOR UNITED
4 STATES AND IMPORTED MUSCLE CUTS OF BEEF, LAMB,
5 AND PORK AND GROUND BEEF, LAMB, AND PORK.—The
6 Secretary may require by regulation that any person that
7 prepares, stores, handles, or distributes muscle cuts of
8 United States beef, imported beef, United States lamb,
9 imported lamb, United States pork, imported pork, ground
10 beef, ground lamb, or ground pork for retail sale maintain
11 a verifiable recordkeeping audit trail that will permit the
12 Secretary to ensure compliance with the regulations pro-
13 mulgated under subsection (g).”.

14 (d) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the
15 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture
16 shall promulgate final regulations to carry out the amend-
17 ments made by this section.

18 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
19 this section take effect 60 days after the date on which
20 final regulations are promulgated under subsection (d).

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