

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4562

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into appropriate arrangements with the National Academy of Sciences to coordinate the development of recommendations for public policy changes required to implement an improved inspection program for meat and poultry products.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 1994

Mr. STENHOLM introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into appropriate arrangements with the National Academy of Sciences to coordinate the development of recommendations for public policy changes required to implement an improved inspection program for meat and poultry 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. DEVELOPMENT OF FRAMEWORK FOR IM-**
2 **PROVED MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION**
3 **BY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.**

4 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to pro-
5 tect the public health by providing for the development
6 of a detailed framework for an improved meat and poultry
7 inspection program that is both scientifically reliable and
8 concentrates on hazards posing the greatest risk to human
9 health.

10 (b) COORDINATION BY NATIONAL ACADEMY OF
11 SCIENCES.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the
12 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall
13 enter into an agreement with the President of the National
14 Academy of Sciences, under which the Academy will co-
15 ordinate the development and evaluation of strategies and
16 mechanisms for implementing an improved meat and poul-
17 try inspection program under the jurisdiction of the De-
18 partment of Agriculture that is both scientifically reliable
19 and concentrates on hazards posing the greatest risk to
20 human health.

21 (c) REPORT ON ACTIVITIES.—Not later than six
22 months after the date on which the agreement is entered
23 into under subsection (b), the Academy shall submit to
24 the Secretary of Agriculture and Congress a report de-
25 scribing the results of the activities conducted pursuant
26 to the agreement. The report shall include the following:

1 (1) An evaluation of the adequacy of the cur-
2 rent scientific basis for implementing risk-based
3 meat and poultry inspection programs using the ap-
4 proach known as hazard analysis critical control
5 point. The evaluation shall include an examination of
6 the adequacy of—

7 (A) data necessary to evaluate and com-
8 pare the public health impacts of current and
9 future meat and poultry inspection programs;
10 and

11 (B) current and anticipated biological and
12 food science technologies needed to conduct
13 risk-based meat and poultry inspection pro-
14 grams.

15 (2) If deficiencies are found in the current sci-
16 entific basis for implementing risk-based meat and
17 poultry inspection programs, recommendations re-
18 garding strategies needed to achieve the level of sci-
19 entific data and technology required to adequately
20 protect the public health in conducting meat and
21 poultry inspection programs.

22 (3) Recommendations regarding the manage-
23 ment structure in the Department of Agriculture
24 and resources necessary for—

1 (A) training the current meat and poultry
2 inspection work force to move from a visual in-
3 spection system to a risk-based inspection sys-
4 tem; and

5 (B) implementing an effective risk-based
6 meat and poultry inspection program on a uni-
7 form basis throughout the United States.

8 (4) A description of the legislative and regu-
9 latory changes needed to implement the rec-
10 ommendations required under paragraph (3).

11 (d) FUNDING.—From funds available to the Sec-
12 retary of Agriculture for fiscal year 1995, the Secretary
13 may use not more than \$200,000 to carry out this section.

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