

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1268 (Delegate Stull, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

Health - Food Processing - Fund-Raising Organizations

This bill exempts specified fund-raising organizations that process food from inspections by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). The bill provides that a fund-raising organization may not process food more than two times between November 1 of any year and March 31 of the following year or process food between April 1 and October 30 of each year. An animal slaughtered for processing must be slaughtered at an official establishment. A person may not keep any unfrozen meat for processing at a temperature that exceeds 30 degrees Fahrenheit. The processed meat must be cooked at a temperature greater than 155 degrees Fahrenheit.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any change in State activities would not materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: For animal slaughtering purposes, an official establishment is defined as any establishment that engages in slaughtering livestock or processing livestock carcasses, parts, meat, or meat food products capable of use as human food solely for intrastate commerce and inspected by MDA.

Fund-raising organizations are: religious, fraternal, civic, war veterans', or charitable organizations; volunteer fire companies; rescue squads; or ambulance companies.

A DHMH representative may, at any reasonable time, enter and inspect any food establishment and inspect and sample any item of food in a food establishment. A person may not refuse to grant access to a DHMH representative or interfere with an inspection.

DHMH and MDA may: (1) inspect for wholesomeness any food donated to a nonprofit corporation, organization, or association; and (2) establish procedures for handling food donated to any nonprofit corporation, organization, or association.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

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mh/jr

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