

SENATE BILL 770

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71r3172
CF HB 865

By: **Senator Colburn**

Introduced and read first time: February 14, 2007

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Milk Products – Farmstead Cheese Production – Pilot Study**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a milk processor – farmstead cheese producer permit;
4 authorizing the holder of a milk processor – farmstead cheese producer permit
5 to perform certain functions and to produce farmstead cheese; requiring the
6 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to issue only a certain number of
7 milk processor – farmstead cheese producer permits; establishing certain
8 qualifications for a certain milk processor – farmstead cheese producer permit;
9 providing for the expiration date of a milk processor – farmstead cheese
10 producer permit; exempting the sale of farmstead cheese from a certain
11 prohibition on the sale of raw milk; defining a certain term; providing for the
12 termination of this Act; and generally relating to a pilot study for the production
13 of farmstead cheese.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Health – General
16 Section 21–401, 21–410, 21–413, 21–416, 21–417, and 21–434
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

19 BY adding to
20 Article – Health – General
21 Section 21–416.1
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
2 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article – Health – General**

4 21–401.

5 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

6 (b) “Bobtailer” means a person who operates or controls a Grade A milk route
7 and distributes Grade A pasteurized milk products that the person buys from a Grade
8 A distributor or a milk processor.

9 (c) “Bulk milk hauler/sampler” means any person who collects official
10 samples and transports raw milk from a farm or raw milk products or both to or from
11 a milk plant, receiving station, or transfer station and who possesses a permit from
12 any state to sample the milk or raw milk products.

13 (d) “Certified industry dairy farm inspector” means an individual who is
14 certified by the Secretary under § 21–414 of this subtitle.

15 (e) “Dairy farm” means a place where at least 1 cow or goat is kept, and from
16 which the milk is sold or offered for sale.

17 (f) “Departmental inspection area” means the area in which the Department
18 routinely makes inspections under this subtitle.

19 (g) **“FARMSTEAD CHEESE” MEANS CHEESE MADE ON A FARM:**

20 (1) **USING ONLY THE RAW MILK PRODUCED BY THE HERD ON THE**
21 **FARM; AND**

22 (2) **THAT MEETS THE DEFINITIONS AND STANDARDS OF A HARD**
23 **CHEESE ESTABLISHED IN 21 C.F.R. 133.**

24 [(g)] (H) “Grade A distribution station” means any place or vehicle where,
25 for redistribution and sale, Grade A pasteurized milk products routinely are received,
26 stored, or transferred.

27 [(h)] (I) “Grade A distributor” means a person who sells a Grade A
28 pasteurized milk product.

- 1 (i) Processed;
- 2 (ii) Pasteurized;
- 3 (iii) Bottled or packaged; or
- 4 (iv) Prepared.
- 5 (2) “Milk plant” does not include a place where milk products are sold
6 at retail only.
- 7 [(o)] (P) “Milk processor” means a person who owns, operates, or controls a
8 milk plant.
- 9 [(p)] (Q) “Milk producer” means a person who operates a dairy farm.
- 10 [(q)] (R) “Milk tank truck” means a truck and its equipment that are used
11 to transport milk products.
- 12 [(r)] (S) “Milk transportation company” means a person responsible for a
13 milk tank truck.
- 14 [(s)] (T) “Misbranded milk product” means a milk product:
- 15 (1) That is in a container that bears or is accompanied by any false or
16 misleading written, printed, or graphic material; or
- 17 (2) That is not labeled in accordance with this subtitle.
- 18 [(t)] (U) (1) “Pasteurized” means having undergone the process of
19 uniformly heating each particle of milk product, holding it in the heated state, and
20 cooling it, in approved and properly operated equipment and under the conditions of
21 temperature and time that the Secretary by rule or regulation establishes, to make the
22 milk product safe and free of pathogens.
- 23 (2) “Pasteurized” includes having undergone any other process that:
- 24 (i) Is recognized by the appropriate federal authority to be
25 equally as effective as the process described in paragraph (1) of this subsection in
26 making milk products safe and free of pathogens; and
- 27 (ii) Is approved by the Secretary.

1 [(u)] (V) “Permit” means a permit issued by the Secretary under this
2 subtitle that authorizes the holder of the permit to do any act that is within the scope
3 of the permit.

4 [(v)] (W) “Raw milk” means unpasteurized milk.

5 [(w)] (X) “Receiving station” means any place where, for delivery to a milk
6 plant, raw milk is collected, cooled, and stored.

7 [(x)] (Y) “Transfer station” means a place where milk is transferred directly
8 from a milk tank truck to another milk tank truck for delivery to a milk plant.

9 21–410.

10 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person shall obtain a
11 permit with a Grade A or a manufactured grade classification from the Secretary
12 before that person may:

13 (1) Bring, send, or receive a milk product into this State for sale;

14 (2) Offer a milk product for sale;

15 (3) Give a milk product away;

16 (4) Store a milk product; or

17 (5) Transport a milk product.

18 (b) A permit is required to:

19 (1) Be a bobtailer;

20 (2) Be a bulk milk hauler/sampler;

21 (3) Be a certified industry dairy farm inspector;

22 (4) Be a milk processor;

23 **(5) BE A MILK PROCESSOR – FARMSTEAD CHEESE PRODUCER;**

24 [(5)] (6) Be a milk producer;

1 [(6)] (7) Operate a distribution station;

2 [(7)] (8) Operate a milk transportation company;

3 [(8)] (9) Operate a receiving station; or

4 [(9)] (10) Operate a transfer station.

5 (c) A permit is not required for:

6 (1) A milk producer who is outside the departmental inspection area if
7 the raw milk from that milk producer is processed by a milk processor who holds a
8 permit issued under this subtitle;

9 (2) A bulk milk hauler/sampler who receives raw milk from outside
10 the departmental inspection area;

11 (3) A grocery store, restaurant, soda fountain, or similar
12 establishment where milk products are served or sold at retail if:

13 (i) The establishment complies with all applicable provisions of
14 this subtitle and all applicable rules or regulations adopted under this subtitle; and

15 (ii) The milk product is received from a permit holder; or

16 (4) A bulk milk hauler/sampler who is transporting a sealed tanker
17 and not producers' samples.

18 (d) The Secretary shall designate all permits with one of the following
19 classifications, as required by rules and regulations:

20 (1) Grade A milk; or

21 (2) Manufactured milk.

22 21-413.

23 (a) If the property of the applicant is in the departmental inspection area,
24 before issuing a permit, the Secretary shall inspect the property, buildings, and
25 equipment of an applicant for:

- 1 (1) A bobtailer permit;
- 2 (2) A distribution station permit;
- 3 (3) A milk processor permit;
- 4 (4) **A MILK PROCESSOR - FARMSTEAD CHEESE PRODUCER**
 5 **PERMIT;**
- 6 [(4)] (5) A milk producer permit;
- 7 [(5)] (6) A milk transportation company permit;
- 8 [(6)] (7) A receiving station permit; or
- 9 [(7)] (8) A transfer station permit.

10 (b) Each inspection under this section shall be to determine whether the
 11 property, buildings, equipment, and their operation conform to the rules and
 12 regulations adopted under this subtitle.

13 (c) To ensure continued conformity to the rules and regulations adopted
 14 under this subtitle, the Secretary from time to time shall reinspect the property,
 15 buildings, and equipment of each permit holder for whom an initial inspection is
 16 required under this section.

17 21-416.

18 (a) While it is effective, a bobtailer permit authorizes the holder, on a Grade
 19 A milk route that the holder operates or controls, to distribute Grade A pasteurized
 20 milk products that the holder purchased from a Grade A distributor or a Grade A milk
 21 processor.

22 (b) While it is effective, a certified industry dairy farm inspector permit
 23 authorizes the holder to inspect dairy farms in accordance with this subtitle.

24 (c) While it is effective, a distribution station permit authorizes the holder,
 25 for redistribution and sale, whether from a fixed location or from a vehicle:

- 26 (1) To receive Grade A pasteurized milk products;
- 27 (2) To store Grade A pasteurized milk products; and

1 (3) To transfer Grade A pasteurized milk products for redistribution
2 and sale.

3 (d) (1) While it is effective, a milk processor permit authorizes the holder:

4 [(1)] (I) To collect raw milk;

5 [(2)] (II) To handle raw milk;

6 [(3)] (III) To process raw milk;

7 [(4)] (IV) To pasteurize raw milk;

8 [(5)] (V) To store pasteurized milk;

9 [(6)] (VI) To bottle or package pasteurized milk;

10 [(7)] (VII) To prepare pasteurized milk for distribution; and

11 [(8)] (VIII) To distribute pasteurized milk.

12 (2) **WHILE IT IS EFFECTIVE, A MILK PROCESSOR – FARMSTEAD**
13 **CHEESE PRODUCER PERMIT AUTHORIZES THE HOLDER:**

14 (I) **TO PERFORM ALL THE FUNCTIONS SET FORTH IN**
15 **PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND**

16 (II) **TO PRODUCE FARMSTEAD CHEESE.**

17 (e) While it is effective, a milk producer permit authorizes the holder:

18 (1) To operate a dairy farm; and

19 (2) To sell raw milk from the dairy farm to:

20 (i) A receiving station;

21 (ii) A transfer station; or

22 (iii) A milk plant.

1 (f) While it is effective, a bulk milk hauler/sampler permit authorizes the
2 holder, while operating a milk tank truck:

3 (1) To receive raw milk products from a milk producer, milk plant,
4 receiving station, or transfer station;

5 (2) To transport raw milk products that have been received from a
6 milk producer, milk plant, receiving station, or transfer station; and

7 (3) To deliver raw milk products that have been received from a milk
8 producer, milk plant, receiving station, or transfer station.

9 (g) While it is effective, a receiving station permit authorizes the holder:

10 (1) To collect raw milk;

11 (2) To cool raw milk;

12 (3) To process raw milk;

13 (4) To store raw milk; and

14 (5) To prepare raw milk for delivery to a milk plant.

15 (h) While it is effective, a transfer station permit authorizes the holder to
16 operate a place where raw milk is transferred between milk tank trucks for eventual
17 delivery to a milk plant.

18 (i) A permittee authorized to perform a function under this subtitle shall
19 only exercise that authority as to the classification for which it is designated, except
20 that:

21 (1) Unless otherwise specified in this subtitle, a milk producer
22 permittee with a Grade A classification authorized to perform a function under this
23 subtitle may exercise that authority for manufactured milk; and

24 (2) A milk processor, receiving station, or transfer station with a
25 manufactured milk classification may exercise that authority using Grade A raw milk.

26 (j) While it is effective, a milk transportation company permit authorizes the
27 holder to operate one or more milk tank trucks.

1 **21-416.1.**

2 (A) **THE SECRETARY SHALL ISSUE MILK PROCESSOR – FARMSTEAD**
3 **CHEESE PRODUCER PERMITS.**

4 (B) **TO QUALIFY FOR A MILK PROCESSOR – FARMSTEAD CHEESE**
5 **PRODUCER PERMIT THE APPLICANT SHALL:**

6 (1) **OPERATE A DAIRY FARM WITH NO MORE THAN 50 COWS IN**
7 **THE HERD;**

8 (2) **BE LOCATED IN TALBOT COUNTY; AND**

9 (3) **MEET ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE**
10 **DEPARTMENT BY REGULATION.**

11 **21-417.**

12 (a) (1) Except for a milk producer permit **AND A MILK**
13 **PROCESSOR – FARMSTEAD CHEESE PRODUCER PERMIT**, a permit expires on the
14 first anniversary of its effective date, unless the permit is renewed for a 1-year term
15 as provided in this section.

16 (2) A milk producer permit does not expire.

17 (3) **A MILK PROCESSOR – FARMSTEAD CHEESE PRODUCER**
18 **PERMIT EXPIRES 5 YEARS AFTER ITS EFFECTIVE DATE.**

19 (b) Before the permit expires, its holder may renew it for an additional
20 1-year term, if the holder:

21 (1) Otherwise is entitled to a permit;

22 (2) Pays to the Secretary a renewal fee equal to the fee for an original
23 permit of the same type; and

24 (3) Submits to the Secretary a renewal application on the form that
25 the Secretary requires.

26 (c) The Secretary shall renew the permit of each applicant for renewal who
27 meets the requirements of this section.

1 (d) A permit is not transferable.

2 21-434.

3 Except for sale of raw milk by a holder of a milk producer permit to a holder of a
4 milk processor permit **OR THE SALE OF A FARMSTEAD CHEESE**, a person may not
5 sell raw milk for human consumption.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of
8 September 30, 2012, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
9 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.