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By: Senator Colburn

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2009

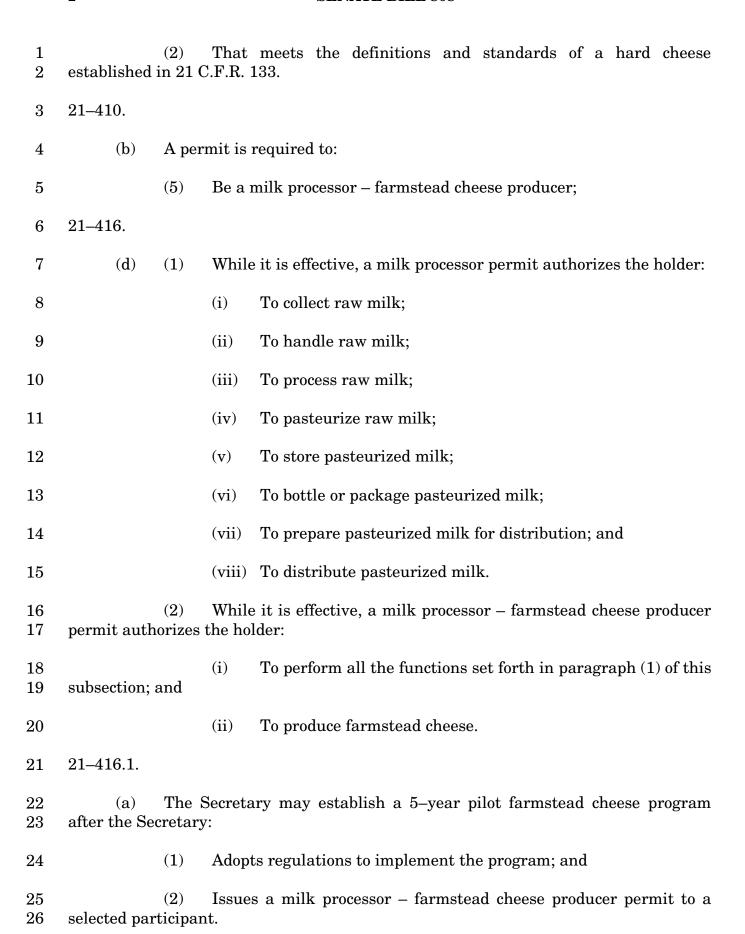
Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1	AN ACT concerning
2	Milk Products - Pilot Farmstead Cheese Program - Permits
3 4 5 6	FOR the purpose of repealing a certain limitation on the number of milk processor – farmstead cheese producer permits that the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene may issue under a certain pilot program; and generally relating to permits for the pilot farmstead cheese program.
7 8 9 10 11	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments, Article – Health – General Section 21–401(a) and (g), 21–410(b)(5), 21–416(d), and 21–417(c) Annotated Code of Maryland (2005 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)
12 13 14 15 16	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Article – Health – General Section 21–416.1 Annotated Code of Maryland (2005 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)
17 18	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
19	Article - Health - General
20	21–401.
21	(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.
22	(g) "Farmstead cheese" means cheese made on a farm:
23	(1) Using only the raw milk produced by the herd on the farm; and



 $\begin{array}{c} 9lr2813 \\ CF~HB~243 \end{array}$



1 Subject to the availability of sufficient inspection and testing staff, (b) $\mathbf{2}$ equipment, and other resources, the Secretary may issue [up to five] milk processor – 3 farmstead cheese producer permits under the pilot program. 4 To qualify for a milk processor - farmstead cheese producer permit the (c) 5 applicant shall: 6 (1) Operate a dairy farm with no more than 120 cows or goats in the 7 herd; and (2)Meet any other requirements established by the Department by 8 9 regulation. 10 21–417. 11 (c) **(1)** Except for a milk processor – farmstead cheese producer permit, 12the Secretary shall renew the permit of each applicant for renewal who meets the requirements of this section. 13 Subject to the ongoing availability of sufficient inspection and 14 testing staff, equipment, and other resources, the Secretary may renew a milk 15 processor – farmstead cheese producer permit for up to four additional 1-year terms if 16 the holder meets the requirements established by regulation. 17

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect

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October 1, 2009.