

Chapter 15

(House Bill 540)

AN ACT concerning

Public Health – Regulation of Milk Products – Revisions

FOR the purpose of altering certain definitions related to the regulation of milk products; repealing the limitation on the number of milk processor – farmstead cheese producer permits the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene may issue; repealing the requirement that an applicant for a milk processor – farmstead cheese producer permit operate a dairy farm with no more than a certain number of cows or goats in the herd; repealing the limit on the number of times a milk processor – farmstead cheese producer permit may be renewed; making conforming changes; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to the regulation of milk products.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Health – General
 Section 21–401, 21–416.1, and 21–417
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

Article – Health – General

21–401.

- (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (b) “Bobtailer” means a person who operates or controls a Grade A milk route and distributes Grade A pasteurized milk products that the person buys from a Grade A distributor or a milk processor.
- (c) “Bulk milk hauler/sampler” means any person who collects official samples and transports raw milk from a farm or raw milk products or both to or from a milk plant, receiving station, or transfer station and who possesses a permit from any state to sample the milk or raw milk products.
- (d) “Certified industry dairy farm inspector” means an individual who is certified by the Secretary under § 21–414 of this subtitle.
- (e) “Dairy farm” means a place where at least 1 cow [or], goat, **OR OTHER HOOVED MAMMAL** is kept, and from which the milk is sold or offered for sale.

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

(g) “Farmstead cheese” means cheese made on a **DAIRY** farm:

(1) Using only the raw milk produced by the herd **OR FLOCK** on the **DAIRY** farm; and

(2) That meets the definitions and standards of a hard cheese established in 21 C.F.R. 133.

(h) “Grade A distribution station” means any place or vehicle where, for redistribution and sale, Grade A pasteurized milk products routinely are received, stored, or transferred.

(i) “Grade A distributor” means a person who sells a Grade A pasteurized milk product.

(j) (1) “Grade A milk product” means:

(i) Grade A milk;

(ii) Grade A cream; or

(iii) Any other Grade A milk product that the Secretary designates.

(2) “Manufactured grade milk product” means:

(i) Manufactured grade milk;

(ii) Manufactured grade cream; or

(iii) Any other manufactured grade milk product that the Secretary designates.

(k) “Grade A Pasteurized Milk Ordinance” means the recommended Grade “A” Pasteurized Milk Ordinance published by the federal government.

(l) (1) “Milk” means the milk of a cow **[or]**, goat, **OR OTHER HOOVED MAMMAL**.

(2) “Grade A milk” means the milk of a cow **[or]**, goat, **OR OTHER HOOVED MAMMAL** produced, processed, pasteurized, bottled, packaged, or prepared in accordance with the Grade A Pasteurized Milk Ordinance.

(3) “Manufactured milk” means the milk of a cow [or], goat, **OR OTHER HOOVED MAMMAL** which is not Grade A milk and which is produced, processed, pasteurized, bottled, packaged, or prepared in accordance with “Milk for Manufacturing Purposes and Its Production and Processing: Recommended Requirements”.

(m) “Milk fat” means the natural fat of milk.

(n) “Milk for Manufacturing Purposes and Its Production and Processing: Recommended Requirements” means the Milk for Manufacturing Purposes and Its Production and Processing: Recommended Requirements published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

(o) (1) “Milk plant” means any place where, for distribution, milk products are:

(i) Processed;

(ii) Pasteurized;

(iii) Bottled or packaged; or

(iv) Prepared.

(2) “Milk plant” does not include a place where milk products are sold at retail only.

(p) “Milk processor” means a person who owns, operates, or controls a milk plant.

(q) “Milk producer” means a person who operates a dairy farm.

(r) “Milk tank truck” means a truck and its equipment that are used to transport milk products.

(s) “Milk transportation company” means a person responsible for a milk tank truck.

(t) “Misbranded milk product” means a milk product:

(1) That is in a container that bears or is accompanied by any false or misleading written, printed, or graphic material; or

(2) That is not labeled in accordance with this subtitle.

(u) (1) “Pasteurized” means having undergone the process of uniformly heating each particle of milk product, holding it in the heated state, and cooling it, in approved and properly operated equipment and under the conditions of temperature and

time that the Secretary by rule or regulation establishes, to make the milk product safe and free of pathogens.

(2) “Pasteurized” includes having undergone any other process that:

(i) Is recognized by the appropriate federal authority to be equally as effective as the process described in paragraph (1) of this subsection in making milk products safe and free of pathogens; and

(ii) Is approved by the Secretary.

(v) “Permit” means a permit issued by the Secretary under this subtitle that authorizes the holder of the permit to do any act that is within the scope of the permit.

(w) “Raw milk” means unpasteurized milk.

(x) “Receiving station” means any place where, for delivery to a milk plant, raw milk is collected, cooled, and stored.

(y) “Transfer station” means a place where milk is transferred directly from a milk tank truck to another milk tank truck for delivery to a milk plant.

21-416.1.

(a) The Secretary may establish a [pilot] farmstead cheese program after the Secretary:

(1) Adopts regulations to implement the program; and

(2) Issues a milk processor – farmstead cheese producer permit to a [selected participant] **QUALIFIED APPLICANT**.

(b) Subject to the availability of sufficient inspection and testing staff, equipment, and other resources, the Secretary may issue [up to five] milk processor – farmstead cheese producer permits under the [pilot] program.

(c) To qualify for a milk processor – farmstead cheese producer permit the applicant shall[:

(1) Operate a dairy farm with no more than 120 cows or goats in the herd; and

(2) Meet] **MEET** any [other] requirements established by the Department by regulation.

21-417.

(a) (1) Except for a milk producer permit, a permit expires on the first anniversary of its effective date, unless the permit is renewed for a 1-year term as provided in this section.

(2) A milk producer permit does not expire.

(b) Except for a milk processor – farmstead cheese producer permit, before the permit expires, its holder may renew it for an additional 1-year term, if the holder:

(1) Otherwise is entitled to a permit;

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

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

(c) (1) Except for a milk processor – farmstead cheese producer permit, the Secretary shall renew the permit of each applicant for renewal who meets the requirements of this section.

(2) Subject to the ongoing availability of sufficient inspection and testing staff, equipment, and other resources, the Secretary may renew a milk processor – farmstead cheese producer permit for [up to four] AN additional 1-year [terms] TERM if the holder meets the requirements established by regulation.

(d) A permit is not transferable.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.

Approved by the Governor, April 14, 2015.