



Ninety-Eighth Legislature - First Session - 2003
Committee Statement
LB 180

Hearing Date: January 21, 2003
Committee On: Agriculture

Introducer(s): (Engel, Kremer)
Title: Change provisions relating to the disposition of animal carcasses

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- Advanced to General File
 - X Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - Indefinitely Postponed
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Vote Results:

5	Yes	Senators Kremer, Erdman, Burling, Cunningham, Vrtiska
	No	
1	Present, not voting	Senator Preister
2	Absent	Senators Chambers, Mossey

Proponents:

Senator Pat Engel
 Scott Darling
 Loren Isom
 Dan Alberts

Representing:

Introducer
 Naturally Recycled Proteins
 University of NE-Industrial Ag Products Center
 Naturally Recycled Proteins

Opponents:

Mike Musgrave
 Jim Coughlin
 Philip Eason

Representing:

Darling International, Inc.
 National By-Products, LLC
 National By-Products, LLC

Neutral:

Donna Ziems
 Larry Williams

Representing:

Self
 NE Dept. of Agriculture

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 180 would amend 54-744 to add initial stages (grinding and enzymatic-assisted decomposition) of the rendering process referred to as whole carcass hydrolyzation that occurred on the farm as an additional permissible method of livestock carcass disposal available to livestock producers. As introduced, LB 180 would have:

- allowed livestock carcasses under thirty pounds to be disposed of by processing (grinding or chopping) for incorporation into a facility utilizing an enzyme-assisted decomposition method provided the Director of Agriculture approved of the enzymatic-assisted method.
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- Clarified that the grinding or chopping process was exempt from regulation as rendering, and on-farm facilities for decomposition would also be excluded from rendering regulation provided only animals that died on the premises were contained therein.
- Stated criteria for the Director's approval of any method of enzyme assisted decomposition that the director find that the method would not increase the risk of livestock disease spread and that the process would not merely result in liquification of carcasses that would be disposed of by soil injection or surface spreading as prohibited by 28-1304.01.
- Amended 54-744.01 to change a requirement under this section that projects for research or demonstration of innovative carcass disposal projects be designed and conducted by research faculty of the University of Nebraska. LB 180 would have provided that projects were permissible if conducted in consultation with such research faculty.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

The committee amendment strikes all original provisions and becomes the bill. Essentially, the revisions would incorporate within the Nebraska Meat and Poultry Inspection Act the process of rendering whole poultry carcasses into “hydrolyzed whole poultry” feed products so that the process is fully regulated as a rendering process. The committee amendment differs from LB 180 as introduced as follows:

- Defines hydrolyzed whole poultry feed products utilizing the definition provided by the American Association of Feed Control Officials and makes it clear that the process of making the hydrolyzed whole poultry is to be regulated as a rendering process
- Would allow renderers to conduct the initial grinding of poultry carcasses on the farm with mobile grinding units dispatched to the farm or grinding stations permanently located at the farm site but any remote or mobile grinding unit would be included in the definition of a rendering establishment. The Department is given specific authority to impose regulations governing sanitation, transport and operation of mobile or remote grinding units to mitigate any concern the Department may have with respect to livestock disease spread, and specific authority to inspect premises where remote or mobile grinding units are utilized.
- No provision is made to allow decomposition phases to take place at farm locations. It is contemplated that this option may be desirable in the future, but that additional research on the safety and practicality of the practice is needed.
- The Department would have authority to impose and enforce regulations that require products of hydrolyzed whole poultry processing be subjected to heating by boiling, extrusion or other equivalent heating method approved by the Department of Agriculture unless the Department is shown information to its satisfaction that heating is not required to render the product suitable for animal feed. The heating standards are identical to those contained in the definition of hydrolyzed whole poultry feed products by the American Association of Feed Control Officials.

- Omits section original section 2 of the bill pertaining to degree of involvement of University faculty required in carcass disposal research projects.

Senator Bob Kremer, Chairperson