

CHAPTER 308

H.B. No. 395

AN ACT

relating to regulating certain slaughterers; providing penalties.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 148.001, Agriculture Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 148.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "slaughterer" means a person engaged in the business of:

(1) slaughtering livestock for profit; or

(2) *selling livestock, as a primary business, to be slaughtered by the purchaser on premises owned or operated by the seller, in a county with a population of one million or more.*

SECTION 2. Section 433.024, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 433.024. INSPECTION OF PROCESSING AND SLAUGHTERING ESTABLISHMENTS. (a) The commissioner, through sanitation experts and other competent inspectors, shall inspect each processing establishment in which livestock is slaughtered and meat and meat food products of the livestock are prepared solely for intrastate commerce as necessary to obtain information about the establishment's sanitary conditions.

(b) The commissioner, through sanitation experts and other competent inspectors, shall inspect each slaughtering establishment whose primary business is the selling of livestock to be slaughtered by the purchaser on premises owned or operated by the seller. This subsection does not nullify the provisions in Section 433.006 of the Health and Safety Code relating to personal use exemption.

(c) [(b)] The commissioner shall adopt rules governing sanitation maintenance in [a] processing and slaughtering establishments as defined by this section [establishment].

(d) [(e)] If sanitary conditions of a processing establishment render meat or meat food products adulterated, the commissioner shall prohibit the meat or meat food products from being labeled, marked, stamped, or tagged as "Texas inspected and passed."

SECTION 3. An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is covered by the law in effect when the offense was committed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 1993.

SECTION 5. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed by the House on April 7, 1993, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 14, 1993: Yeas 29, Nays 0.

Approved May 27, 1993.

Effective Sept. 1, 1993.