

Date of Hearing: June 16, 2021

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Robert Rivas, Chair
SB 815 (Committee on Agriculture) – As Introduced March 2, 2021

SENATE VOTE: 37-0

SUBJECT: Meat processing establishment, custom livestock slaughterhouse, and poultry plants: licensing and inspectors.

SUMMARY: This bill extends, to January 1, 2027, provisions in current law that allow the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to collect fees for initial licensing and renewal of licenses for livestock meat inspectors, poultry meat inspectors, and processing inspectors. These provision expire on January 1, 2022.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Provides, in the California Meat and Poultry Inspection Act, for meat and poultry products inspection programs that will impose and enforce requirements with respect to intrastate operations and commerce that are at least equal to those imposed and enforced under the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Federal Poultry Products Inspection Act.
- 2) Provides, in the California Meat and Poultry Supplemental Inspection Act for the regulation, inspection, and licensing of meat and poultry plants and the regulation and licensing of livestock and poultry meat inspectors.
- 3) Establishes an application fee of \$100 for a livestock meat inspector's license or a processing inspector's license. This authority is set to expire January 1, 2022.
- 4) Requires an application for renewal of a livestock meat inspector's license or a processing inspector's license, accompanied by a \$100 renewal fee, be made on or before the expiration of the license. It also establishes a \$25 penalty for a license that has not been paid by the expiration date. This authority is set to expire January 1, 2022.
- 5) Establishes an application fee of \$500 for a meat processing establishment or a new or previously unlicensed custom livestock slaughterhouse. This authority is set to expire on January 1, 2022.
- 6) Establishes a renewal fee of \$500 for a custom livestock slaughterhouse. This authority is set to expire January 1, 2022.
- 7) Establishes an application fee of \$500 for a new, previously unlicensed poultry plant. This authority is set to expire on January 1, 2022.
- 8) Establishes an annual renewal fee for poultry plants as follows:
 - a. \$500 if the plant slaughtered 10,000 or fewer poultry during the preceding October through September time period.
 - b. \$750 if the plant slaughtered between 10,000 and 100,000 poultry during the preceding October through September time period.

- c. \$1,200 if the plant slaughtered over 100,000 poultry during the preceding October through September time period. This authority is set to expire on January 1, 2022.
- 9) Establishes an application fee of \$100 for each person acting as a poultry meat inspector. This authority is set to expire on January 1, 2022.
- 10) Establishes a renewal fee of \$100 for each person acting as a poultry meat inspector. This authority is set to expire January 1, 2022.
- 11) Establishes a \$25 penalty for applicants who do not pay the renewal fee by the expiration date of the license. This authority is set to expire on January 1, 2022.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS: Licensed meat inspectors, poultry meat inspectors, and processing inspectors ensure that meat and poultry slaughtered and processed at state-licensed facilities are kept clean and sanitary and that the products produced at those facilities are clean, safe, and wholesome for human consumption. Collaboratively, branch inspectors and industry inspectors conduct comprehensive inspections of licensed plants to ensure compliance and achieve clean, sanitary, and wholesome meat and poultry products.

Extension of the authority to charge application and renewal fees and penalty fees allows the department to continue funding critical programs to ensure the health and safety of all Californians who consume these products.

RELATED LEGISLATION:

AB 2716 (Chapter 247, Statutes of 2016) extended for five years the sunsets of the livestock meat inspector and processing inspector licenses and fees to January 1, 2022. It also extended the licensed meat processing and custom livestock slaughter establishments licenses and fees to January 1, 2022. In addition, extended the poultry and rabbit processing plant application fees, renewal fees, meat inspector license fees, and penalty fees to January 1, 2022.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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