

CHAPTER 536  
(Senate Bill 36)

AN ACT to add new Sections 197-1 through 197-26, inclusive, to Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Replacement Volume), title "Health," to follow immediately after Section 197 thereof, and to be under the new subtitle "Maryland Poultry Products Inspection Act," to provide for mandatory inspection of the slaughter of poultry and the processing of poultry and poultry products solely for distribution in this State; for the regulation of the distribution of poultry and poultry products within the State of Maryland; for the regulation of related industries; for cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture; and for penalties for violations, detention, seizure and other enforcement authorities; and matters generally related thereto.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new Sections 197-1 through 197-26, inclusive, be and they are hereby added to Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Replacement Volume), title "Health," to follow immediately after Section 197 thereof, and to be under the new subtitle "Maryland Poultry Products Inspection Act," and all to read as follows:

*Maryland Poultry Products Inspection Act*

197-1.

*This subtitle shall be designated as the Maryland Poultry Products Inspection Act.*

197-2.

*Poultry and poultry products are an important source of the Nation's total supply of food. It is in the public interest that the health and welfare of consumers be protected by assuring that slaughtered poultry and poultry products distributed to them are wholesome, not adulterated, and properly marked, labeled, and packaged. Unwholesome, adulterated, or misbranded poultry or poultry products are injurious to the public welfare, destroy markets for wholesome, not adulterated, and properly labeled and packaged poultry and poultry products, and result in sundry losses to poultry producers and processors of poultry and poultry products, as well as injury to consumers. The unwholesome, adulterated, mislabeled, or deceptively packaged articles can be sold at lower prices and compete unfairly with the wholesome, not adulterated, and properly labeled and packaged articles, to the detriment of consumers and the public generally. Regulation by the Maryland State Board of Agriculture and cooperation by this State and the United States as provided by this Act are appropriate to protect the health and welfare of consumers.*

197-3.

*It is the policy of the State to provide for the inspection of poultry and poultry products and otherwise regulate the processing and distribution of such articles as are hereinafter prescribed to prevent the movement or sale in intrastate commerce of poultry and poultry products which are adulterated or misbranded. When poultry and poultry products are condemned because of disease, the reason for condemnation in such instances shall be supported by scientific fact, information, or criteria, and such condemnation under this Act shall be achieved through uniform inspection standards and uniform application thereof.*

197-4.

*For purposes of this subtitle, the following terms shall have the meanings stated below:*