

Maryland Wholesome Meat Act - Humane Slaughter of
Livestock

FOR the purpose of requiring certain slaughtering establishments to conform to certain standards when slaughtering livestock, with an exemption; permitting the Maryland Secretary of Agriculture to withhold certain inspection services from establishments which fail to conform to humane slaughtering requirements; and generally relating to the Maryland Secretary of Agriculture's authority to require establishments to conform to humane slaughtering standards.

BY adding to

Article - Agriculture
Section ~~4-132~~ 4-123.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1974 Volume and 1978 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article - Agriculture

~~4-132~~ 4-123.1.

(A) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES IT IS THE POLICY OF THIS STATE TO PREVENT INHUMANE METHODS OF SLAUGHTER OF LIVESTOCK AT ANY OFFICIAL ESTABLISHMENT OR ~~EXEMPT PLANT AS PROVIDED IN THE MARYLAND WHOLESOME MEAT ACT~~ CUSTOM SLAUGHTER HOUSE AS SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) IN AN OFFICIAL ESTABLISHMENT OR ~~EXEMPT PLANT~~ CUSTOM SLAUGHTER HOUSE, THE SECRETARY SHALL INSPECT THE HANDLING OF LIVESTOCK IN CONNECTION WITH SLAUGHTERING.

(C) AT AN OFFICIAL ESTABLISHMENT OR ~~EXEMPT PLANT~~ CUSTOM SLAUGHTER HOUSE, LIVESTOCK MAY ONLY BE SLAUGHTERED ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING:

(1) ANIMALS ARE TO BE RENDERED INSENSIBLE TO PAIN BY A SINGLE BLOW OR GUNSHOT OR AN ELECTRICAL, CHEMICAL OR OTHER MEANS THAT IS RAPID AND EFFECTIVE, BEFORE BEING SHACKLED, HOISTED, THROWN, CAST, OR CUT; OR

(2) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RITUAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE JEWISH FAITH OR ANY OTHER RELIGIOUS FAITH THAT PRESCRIBES A METHOD OF SLAUGHTER WHERE THE LIVESTOCK SUFFERS LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS BY ANEMIA OF THE BRAIN CAUSED BY THE SIMULTANEOUS AND INSTANTANEOUS SEVERANCE OF THE CAROTID ARTERIES WITH A SHARP INSTRUMENT AND HANDLING IN CONNECTION WITH SLAUGHTERING.