

page on which the name is recorded, and a notice that such sale is discontinued.

Passed the Senate February 25, 1967.

Passed the House March 3, 1967.

Approved by the Governor March 15, 1967.

CHAPTER 31.

[Senate Bill No. 53.]

HUMANE SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS.

AN ACT relating to the humane slaughter of animals; regulating slaughtering practices; repealing chapter 101, Laws of 1959 and RCW 16.50.010 through 16.50.070; and providing penalties.

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

Section 1. The legislature of the state of Washington finds that the use of humane methods in the slaughter of livestock prevents needless suffering; results in safer and better working conditions for persons engaged in the slaughtering industry; brings about improvement of products and economy in slaughtering operations; and produces other benefits for producers, processors and consumers which tend to expedite the orderly flow of livestock and their products. It is therefore declared to be the policy of the state of Washington to require that the slaughter of all livestock, and the handling of livestock in connection with slaughter, shall be carried out only by humane methods and to provide that methods of slaughter shall conform generally to those authorized by the Federal Humane Slaughter Act of 1958, and regulations thereunder.

Sec. 2. For the purpose of this act:

(1) "Department" means the department of agriculture of the state of Washington.

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animals.

Definitions.

(2) "Director" means the director of the department or his duly appointed representative.

(3) "Humane method" means either: (a) A method whereby the animal is rendered insensible to pain by mechanical, electrical, chemical or other means that is rapid and effective, before being shackled, hoisted, thrown, cast or cut; or (b) a method in accordance with the ritual requirements of any religious faith whereby the animal suffers loss of consciousness by anemia of the brain caused by the simultaneous and instantaneous severance of the carotid arteries with a sharp instrument.

(4) "Livestock" means cattle, calves, sheep, swine, horses, mules and goats.

(5) "Packer" means any person engaged in the business of slaughtering livestock.

(6) "Person" means a natural person, individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, society and association and every officer, agent or employee, thereof. This term shall import either the singular or plural, as the case may be.

(7) "Slaughterer" means any person engaged in the commercial or custom slaughtering of livestock, including custom farm slaughterers.

Sec. 3. No slaughterer or packer shall bleed or slaughter any livestock except by a humane method: *Provided*, That the director may, by administrative order, exempt a person from compliance with this act for a period of not to exceed six months if he finds that an earlier compliance would cause such person undue hardship.

Humane
slaughter re-
quired—
Exceptions.

Sec. 4. The director shall administer the provisions of this act. He shall adopt and may from time to time revise rules which shall conform substantially to the rules and regulations promulgated by the secretary of agriculture of the United States pursuant to the Federal Humane Slaughter Act of 1958,

Rules and
regulations.

Public Law 85-765, 72 Stat. 862 and any amendments thereto. Such rules shall be adopted pursuant to the provisions of chapter 34.04 RCW as enacted or hereafter amended concerning the adoption of rules.

Prohibited methods.

Sec. 5. The use of a manually operated hammer, sledge or poleaxe is declared to be an inhumane method of slaughter within the meaning of this act.

Humane slaughter of animals—Enforcement.

Sec. 6. The director may bring an action to enjoin the violation or threatened violation of any provision of this act or any rule adopted pursuant to this act in the superior court in the county in which such violation occurs or is about to occur, notwithstanding the existence of the other remedies at law.

Penalty.

Sec. 7. Any person violating any provision of this act or of any rule adopted hereunder is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of not more than two hundred fifty dollars or confinement in the county jail for not more than ninety days.

Repeal.

Sec. 8. Chapter 101, Laws of 1959 and RCW 16.50.010 through 16.50.070 are each hereby repealed.

Severability.

Sec. 9. If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

Religious beliefs protected.

Sec. 10. Nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit, abridge, or in any way hinder the religious freedom of any person or group. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this act, ritual slaughter and the handling or other preparation of livestock for ritual slaughter is defined as humane.

Passed the Senate February 16, 1967.

Passed the House March 4, 1967.

Approved by the Governor March 15, 1967.