

February 18, 1963.
Agriculture 1.

House File 285
By RILEY and ELY.

Passed House, Date.....

Passed Senate, Date.....

Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....

Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....

Approved.....

A BILL FOR

An Act to provide for the humane slaughter of livestock.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

1 Section 1. The general assembly of this state finds that
2 the use of humane methods in the slaughter of livestock prevents
3 needless suffering; results in safer and better working conditions
4 for persons engaged in the slaughtering industry; brings about
5 improvement of products and economy in slaughtering operations;
6 and produces other benefits for producers, processors and
7 consumers which tend to expedite the orderly flow of livestock
8 and their products.

9 It is therefore declared to be the policy of the state of
10 Iowa to require that the slaughter of all livestock and the
11 handling of livestock, in connection with slaughter, shall be
12 carried out only by humane methods and to provide that methods
13 of slaughter shall conform generally to those employed in other
14 states where humane slaughter is required by law and to those
15 authorized by the federal humane slaughter Act of 1958, and
16 regulations thereunder.

1 Sec. 2. When used in this Act the following words shall have
2 the enumerated meaning ascribed to them:

- 3 1. "Secretary" means the secretary of agriculture.
- 4 2. "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation,
5 or association doing business in this state, in whole or in part.

6 3. "Slaughterer" means any person regularly engaged in the
7 commercial slaughtering of livestock.

8 4. "Livestock" means cattle, calves, sheep, swine, horses,
9 mules, goats and any other animal which can or may be used in
10 and for the preparation of meat or meat products.

11 5. "Packer" means any person engaged in the business of
12 slaughtering, or of manufacturing or preparing meat or meat
13 products for sale, either by such person or others; or of
14 manufacturing or preparing livestock products for sale by such
15 person or others.

16 6. "Stockyard" means any place, establishment or facility
17 commonly known as a stockyard, conducted or operated for
18 compensation or profit as a public market, consisting of pens,
19 or other enclosures, and their appurtenances, for the handling,
20 keeping and holding of livestock for the purpose of sale or
21 shipment.

22 7. "Humane method" means either:

23 a. A method whereby the animal is rendered insensible to pain
24 by mechanical, electrical, chemical or other means that is rapid
25 and effective, before being shackled, hoisted, thrown, cast or
26 cut; or

27 b. A method in accordance with ritual requirements of the
28 Jewish faith or any other religious faith whereby the animal
29 suffers loss of consciousness by anemia of the brain caused by
30 the simultaneous and instantaneous severance of the carotid
31 arteries with a sharp instrument.

1 Sec. 3. No slaughterer, packer or stockyard operator shall
2 shackle, hoist, or otherwise bring livestock into position for

3 slaughter, by any method which shall cause injury or pain.

1 Sec. 4. No slaughterer, packer or stockyard operator shall
2 bleed or slaughter any livestock except by a humane method:
3 Provided, however, that the secretary may, by administrative
4 order, exempt from compliance with this Act, for a period of not
5 to exceed one year after the effective date of this Act, any
6 slaughterer, packer or stockyard operator if he finds that an
7 earlier compliance would cause such person an undue hardship.

1 Sec. 5. The secretary shall administer the provisions of
2 this Act. He shall promulgate and may from time to time revise
3 rules and regulations which shall conform substantially to the
4 rules and regulations promulgated by the secretary of agriculture
5 of the United States pursuant to the federal humane slaughter
6 Act of 1958, public law 85-765, 72 stat. 862 (and any amendments
7 thereto): Provided, however, that the use of a manually operated
8 hammer, sledge or poleax is declared to be an inhumane method of
9 slaughter within the meaning of this Act.

1 Sec. 6. Any person who violates any provision of this Act
2 shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not more
3 than five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment for not more than
4 thirty days, or both.

EXPLANATION OF HOUSE FILE 285

Packing plants selling meat products to the U. S. Government are required to follow humane slaughter of livestock practices. This bill, patterned on suggested state legislation of the Council of State Government, would extend these practices to other packing plants within this state. The secretary of agriculture is designated as the enforcement officer.