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By:  Springer S.B. No. 867

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an animal share exemption for certain meat and meat food products.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1.  Subchapter A, Chapter 433, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 433.0065 to read as follows:

Sec. 433.0065.  ANIMAL SHARE EXEMPTION. (a) In this section, "animal share" means an ownership interest in livestock created by a contract between a consumer and a farmer or rancher who owns the livestock.

(b)  An animal share executed by a consumer and a farmer or rancher under this section must include:

(1)  a bill of sale provided to the consumer by the farmer or rancher conveying to the consumer an ownership interest in the livestock;

(2)  a provision authorizing the farmer or rancher to board the livestock and arrange preparation of the livestock as meat and meat food products for the consumer; and

(3)  a provision entitling the consumer to a share of meat and meat food products derived from the livestock.

(c)  The provisions of this chapter requiring inspection of the slaughter of livestock and the preparation of meat and meat food products at establishments conducting those operations do not apply to the slaughtering of livestock and preparation of meat and meat food products if:

(1)  ownership of the livestock under an animal share is established before the livestock is slaughtered and the meat and meat food products are prepared;

(2)  the meat and meat food products are:

(A)  prepared from livestock subject to an animal share and delivered to the establishment by the farmer or rancher boarding the livestock; and

(B)  following preparation, delivered directly to the consumer who owns the animal share;

(3)  on delivery of the meat or meat food products to the consumer, the establishment provides notice to the consumer that the meat or meat food products have not been inspected by the department in:

(A)  a separate written statement that prominently displays the warning; or

(B)  a warning statement prominently displayed on a label affixed to the packaging of the meat or meat food products; and

(4)  the farmer or rancher provides to the consumer information describing the standards the farmer or rancher followed with respect to livestock health and the preparation of meat and meat food products derived from the livestock.

(d)  A consumer may not sell, donate, or commercially redistribute meat or meat food products delivered to the consumer in accordance with this section.

(e)  A farmer or rancher may not publish a statement that implies department approval or endorsement regarding meat or meat food products delivered pursuant to an animal share.

SECTION 2.  Section 433.024(b), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b)  The department shall inspect each slaughtering establishment whose primary business is the selling of livestock to be slaughtered by the purchaser on premises owned or operated by the seller. This subsection does not nullify the provisions in Section 433.006 relating to personal use exemption or Section 433.0065 relating to animal share exemption.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.