

By: Murr

H.B. No. 261

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the labeling of beef, pork, beef products, and pork products; providing a civil penalty.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 431, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 431.085 to read as follows:

Sec. 431.085. REQUIRED LABELING OF BEEF, PORK, BEEF PRODUCTS, AND PORK PRODUCTS; CIVIL PENALTY. (a) A retailer of beef, pork, or a beef or pork product shall affix a label to the container of the meat or product designating the country of origin of the meat or of the meat used to make the product. If any unwrapped or unpackaged beef, pork, or beef or pork product is displayed for sale, the retailer shall clearly label with the country of origin the display case or container in which the meat or product is displayed.

(b) A retailer who violates Subsection (a) is liable to this state for a civil penalty of \$1,000 for each day the violation continues.

(c) The attorney general may sue to collect a civil penalty under this section and may recover reasonable expenses incurred in obtaining the penalty, including investigative costs, court costs, reasonable attorney's fees, witness fees, and deposition expenses.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.