

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1509

To amend the Poultry Products Inspection Act and the Federal Meat Inspection Act to support small and very small meat and poultry processing establishments, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 29, 2025

Mr. THUNE (for himself and Ms. SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Poultry Products Inspection Act and the Federal Meat Inspection Act to support small and very small meat and poultry processing establishments, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening Local
5 Processing Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. HACCP GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES FOR SMALLER**
2 **AND VERY SMALL POULTRY AND MEAT ES-**
3 **TABLISHMENTS.**

4 (a) POULTRY ESTABLISHMENTS.—The Poultry Prod-
5 ucts Inspection Act is amended by inserting after section
6 14 (21 U.S.C. 463) the following:

7 **“SEC. 14A. SMALLER AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT**
8 **GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES.**

9 “(a) DEFINITIONS OF SMALLER ESTABLISHMENT
10 AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT.—In this section, the
11 terms ‘smaller establishment’ and ‘very small establish-
12 ment’ have the meanings given those terms in the final
13 rule entitled ‘Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and
14 Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems’ (61 Fed. Reg.
15 38806 (July 25, 1996)).

16 “(b) DATABASE OF STUDIES; MODEL PLANS.—Not
17 later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this
18 section, the Secretary shall—

19 “(1) establish a free, searchable database of ap-
20 proved peer-reviewed validation studies accessible to
21 smaller establishments and very small establish-
22 ments subject to inspection under this Act for use
23 in developing a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control
24 Points plan; and

25 “(2) publish online scale-appropriate model
26 Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plans

1 for smaller establishments and very small establish-
2 ments, including model plans for—

3 “(A) slaughter-only establishments;

4 “(B) processing-only establishments; and

5 “(C) slaughter and processing establish-
6 ments.

7 “(c) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the
8 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall pub-
9 lish a guidance document, after notice and an opportunity
10 for public comment, providing information on the require-
11 ments that need to be met for smaller establishments and
12 very small establishments to receive approval for a Hazard
13 Analysis and Critical Control Points plan pursuant to this
14 Act.

15 “(d) DATA CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out sub-
16 sections (b) and (c), the Secretary shall not publish con-
17 fidential business information, including a Hazard Anal-
18 ysis and Critical Control Points plan of an establish-
19 ment.”.

20 (b) MEAT ESTABLISHMENTS.—The Federal Meat In-
21 spection Act is amended by inserting after section 25 (21
22 U.S.C. 625) the following:

1 **“SEC. 26. SMALLER AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT**
 2 **GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES.**

3 “(a) DEFINITIONS OF SMALLER ESTABLISHMENT
 4 AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT.—In this section, the
 5 terms ‘smaller establishment’ and ‘very small establish-
 6 ment’ have the meanings given those terms in the final
 7 rule entitled ‘Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and
 8 Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems’ (61 Fed. Reg.
 9 38806 (July 25, 1996)).

10 “(b) DATABASE OF STUDIES; MODEL PLANS.—Not
 11 later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this
 12 section, the Secretary shall—

13 “(1) establish a free, searchable database of ap-
 14 proved peer-reviewed validation studies accessible to
 15 smaller establishments and very small establish-
 16 ments subject to inspection under this Act for use
 17 in developing a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control
 18 Points plan; and

19 “(2) publish online scale-appropriate model
 20 Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plans
 21 for smaller establishments and very small establish-
 22 ments, including model plans for—

23 “(A) slaughter-only establishments;

24 “(B) processing-only establishments; and

25 “(C) slaughter and processing establish-
 26 ments.

1 “(c) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the
 2 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall pub-
 3 lish a guidance document, after notice and an opportunity
 4 for public comment, providing information on the require-
 5 ments that need to be met for smaller establishments and
 6 very small establishments to receive approval for a Hazard
 7 Analysis and Critical Control Points plan pursuant to this
 8 Act.

9 “(d) DATA CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out sub-
 10 sections (b) and (c), the Secretary shall not publish con-
 11 fidential business information, including a Hazard Anal-
 12 ysis and Critical Control Points plan of an establish-
 13 ment.”.

14 **SEC. 3. INCREASING MAXIMUM FEDERAL SHARE FOR EX-**
 15 **PENSES OF STATE INSPECTION.**

16 (a) POULTRY PRODUCTS.—Section 5(a)(3) of the
 17 Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 454(a)(3)) is
 18 amended in the second sentence by striking “50 per cen-
 19 tum” and inserting “65 percent”.

20 (b) MEAT AND MEAT FOOD PRODUCTS.—Section
 21 301(a)(3) of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.
 22 661(a)(3)) is amended in the second sentence by striking
 23 “50 per centum” and inserting “65 percent”.

1 **SEC. 4. COOPERATIVE INTERSTATE SHIPMENT OF POUL-**
 2 **TRY AND MEAT.**

3 (a) POULTRY PRODUCTS.—Section 31 of the Poultry
 4 Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 472) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)—

6 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “25 em-
 7 ployees” each place it appears and inserting
 8 “50 employees”; and

9 (B) in paragraph (3)—

10 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
 11 ing “25” and inserting “50”;

12 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
 13 “25” and inserting “50”; and

14 (iii) in subparagraph (B)—

15 (I) in clause (i), by striking
 16 “more than 25 employees but less
 17 than 35 employees” and inserting
 18 “more than 50 employees but less
 19 than 70 employees”; and

20 (II) in clause (ii), by striking
 21 “subsection (i)” and inserting “sub-
 22 section (j)”;

23 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “60 percent”
 24 and inserting “80 percent”;

25 (3) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “subsection
 26 (i)” and inserting “subsection (j)”;

1 (4) by redesignating subsections (f) through (i)
2 as subsections (g) through (j), respectively; and

3 (5) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(f) FEDERAL OUTREACH.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In each of fiscal years
7 2025 through 2030, for the purpose of State partici-
8 pation in the Cooperative Interstate Shipment pro-
9 gram, the Secretary shall conduct outreach to, and,
10 as appropriate, subsequent negotiation with, not
11 fewer than 25 percent of the States that—

12 “(A) have a State poultry product inspec-
13 tion program pursuant to section 5; but

14 “(B) do not have a selected establishment.

15 “(2) REPORT.—At the conclusion of each of fis-
16 cal years 2025 through 2030, the Secretary shall
17 submit a report detailing the activities and results of
18 the outreach conducted during that fiscal year under
19 paragraph (1) to—

20 “(A) the Committee on Agriculture of the
21 House of Representatives;

22 “(B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
23 tion, and Forestry of the Senate;

24 “(C) the Subcommittee on Agriculture,
25 Rural Development, Food and Drug Adminis-

tration, and Related Agencies of the Committee
on Appropriations of the House of Representa-
tives; and

“(D) the Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Rural Development, Food and Drug Adminis-
tration, and Related Agencies of the Committee
on Appropriations of the Senate.”.

(b) MEAT AND MEAT FOOD PRODUCTS.—Section
501 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 683)
is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “25 em-
ployees” each place it appears and inserting
“50 employees”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
ing “25” and inserting “50”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
“25” and inserting “50”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B)(i), by strik-
ing “more than 25 employees but less than
35 employees” and inserting “more than
50 employees but less than 70 employees”;

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “60 percent”
and inserting “80 percent”; and

(3) in subsection (f), by adding at the end the following:

“(3) FEDERAL OUTREACH.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In each of fiscal years 2025 through 2030, for the purpose of State participation in the Cooperative Interstate Shipment program, the Secretary shall conduct outreach to, and, as appropriate, subsequent negotiation with, not fewer than 25 percent of the States that—

“(i) have a State meat inspection program pursuant to section 301; but

“(ii) do not have a selected establishment.

“(B) REPORT.—At the conclusion of each of fiscal years 2025 through 2030, the Secretary shall submit a report detailing the activities and results of the outreach conducted during that fiscal year under subparagraph (A) to—

“(i) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives;

“(ii) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

1 “(iii) the Subcommittee on Agri-
 2 culture, Rural Development, Food and
 3 Drug Administration, and Related Agen-
 4 cies of the Committee on Appropriations of
 5 the House of Representatives; and

6 “(iv) the Subcommittee on Agri-
 7 culture, Rural Development, Food and
 8 Drug Administration, and Related Agen-
 9 cies of the Committee on Appropriations of
 10 the Senate.”.

11 **SEC. 5. PROCESSING RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

12 Subtitle A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946
 13 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
 14 the following:

15 **“SEC. 210B. PROCESSING RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

16 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
 18 tity’ means—

19 “(A) a smaller establishment or very small
 20 establishment (as those terms are defined in the
 21 final rule entitled ‘Pathogen Reduction; Hazard
 22 Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP)
 23 Systems’ (61 Fed. Reg. 33806 (July 25,
 24 1996)));

1 “(B) a slaughtering or processing estab-
2 lishment subject to—

3 “(i) a State meat inspection program
4 pursuant to section 301 of the Federal
5 Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 661); or

6 “(ii) a State poultry product inspec-
7 tion program pursuant to section 5 of the
8 Poultry Products Inspection Act (21
9 U.S.C. 454);

10 “(C) a person engaging in custom oper-
11 ations that is exempt from inspection under—

12 “(i) section 23 of the Federal Meat
13 Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 623); or

14 “(ii) section 15 of the Poultry Prod-
15 ucts Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 464); and

16 “(D) a person seeking—

17 “(i) to establish and operate an estab-
18 lishment described in subparagraph (A) or
19 (B); or

20 “(ii) to engage in custom operations
21 described in subparagraph (C).

22 “(2) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
23 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Ad-
24 ministrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

25 “(b) GRANTS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days
 2 after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-
 3 retary shall award competitive grants to eligible enti-
 4 ties for activities to increase resiliency and diver-
 5 sification of the meat processing system, including
 6 activities that—

7 “(A) support the health and safety of meat
 8 and poultry plant employees, suppliers, and cus-
 9 tomers;

10 “(B) support increased processing capac-
 11 ity; and

12 “(C) otherwise support the resilience of the
 13 small meat and poultry processing sector.

14 “(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The maximum
 15 amount of a grant awarded under this section shall
 16 not exceed \$500,000.

17 “(3) DURATION.—The term of a grant awarded
 18 under this section shall not exceed 3 years.

19 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring a
 21 grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-
 22 retary an application at such time, in such manner,
 23 and containing such information as the Secretary
 24 may require.

1 “(2) APPLICATIONS FOR SMALL GRANTS.—The
2 Secretary shall establish a separate, simplified appli-
3 cation process for eligible entities applying for a
4 grant under this section of not more than \$100,000.

5 “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall en-
6 sure that any application for a grant under this sec-
7 tion is—

8 “(A) simple and practicable;

9 “(B) accessible online; and

10 “(C) available through local staff of the
11 Department of Agriculture.

12 “(4) NOTICE.—Not later than 14 days before
13 the date on which the Secretary begins to accept ap-
14 plications under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
15 publish a notice of funding opportunity with respect
16 to the grants available under this section.

17 “(5) REAPPLICATION.—If an application of an
18 eligible entity under this subsection is denied by the
19 Secretary, the eligible entity may submit a revised
20 application.

21 “(6) PRIORITY.—In reviewing applications sub-
22 mitted under this subsection, the Secretary shall
23 give priority to proposals that will—

1 “(A) increase farmer and rancher access to
2 animal slaughter options within a 200-mile ra-
3 dius of the location of the farmer or rancher; or

4 “(B) support an eligible entity described in
5 subsection (a)(1)(A).

6 “(d) USE OF GRANT.—An eligible entity that receives
7 a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to
8 carry out activities in support of the purposes described
9 in subsection (b)(1), including through—

10 “(1) the development and issuance of a Hazard
11 Analysis and Critical Control Points plan for the eli-
12 gible entity, which may be developed by a consultant;

13 “(2) the purchase or establishment, as applica-
14 ble, of facilities, equipment, processes, and oper-
15 ations necessary for the eligible entity to comply
16 with applicable requirements under the Federal
17 Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or the
18 Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et
19 seq.);

20 “(3) the purchase of cold storage, equipment, or
21 transportation services;

22 “(4) the purchase of temperature screening
23 supplies, testing for communicable diseases, dis-
24 infectant, sanitation systems, hand washing stations,
25 and other sanitizing supplies;

1 “(5) the purchase and decontamination of per-
2 sonal protective equipment;

3 “(6) the construction or purchase of humane
4 handling infrastructure, including holding space for
5 livestock prior to slaughter, shade structures, and
6 knock box structures;

7 “(7)(A) the purchase of software and computer
8 equipment for record keeping, production data, and
9 Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points record
10 review; and

11 “(B) the provision of guidelines and training re-
12 lating to that software and computer equipment;

13 “(8) the provision of staff time and training for
14 implementing and monitoring health and safety pro-
15 cedures;

16 “(9) the development of a feasibility study or
17 business plan for, or the carrying out of any other
18 activity associated with, establishing or expanding a
19 small meat or poultry processing facility;

20 “(10) the purchase of equipment that enables
21 the further use or value-added sale of coproducts or
22 byproducts, such as organs, hides, and other rel-
23 evant products; and

1 “(11) other activities associated with expanding
2 or establishing an eligible entity described in sub-
3 section (a)(1)(A), as determined by the Secretary.

4 “(e) OUTREACH.—During the period beginning on
5 the date on which the Secretary publishes the notice under
6 subsection (c)(4) and ending on the date on which the Sec-
7 retary begins to accept applications under subsection
8 (c)(1), the Secretary shall perform outreach to States and
9 eligible entities relating to grants under this section.

10 “(f) FEDERAL SHARE.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
12 the Federal share of the activities carried out using
13 a grant awarded under this section shall not ex-
14 ceed—

15 “(A) 90 percent in the case of a grant in
16 the amount of \$100,000 or less; or

17 “(B) 75 percent in the case of a grant in
18 an amount greater than \$100,000.

19 “(2) FISCAL YEARS 2025 AND 2026.—An eligible
20 entity awarded a grant under this section during fis-
21 cal year 2025 or 2026 shall not be required to pro-
22 vide non-Federal matching funds with respect to the
23 grant.

1 “(g) ADMINISTRATION.—The promulgation of regula-
 2 tions under, and administration of, this section shall be
 3 made without regard to—

4 “(1) the notice and comment provisions of sec-
 5 tion 553 of title 5, United States Code; and

6 “(2) chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code
 7 (commonly known as the ‘Paperwork Reduction
 8 Act’).

9 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 10 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agri-
 11 culture to carry out this section \$20,000,000 for each of
 12 fiscal years 2025 through 2030.”.

13 **SEC. 6. PROCESSOR CAREER TRAINING PROGRAMS.**

14 Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and
 15 Education Reform Act of 1998 is amended by inserting
 16 before section 404 (7 U.S.C. 7624) the following:

17 **“SEC. 403. PROCESSOR CAREER TRAINING PROGRAMS.**

18 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 “(1) LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVER-
 20 SITIES.—The term ‘land-grant colleges and univer-
 21 sities’ has the meaning given the term in section
 22 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Exten-
 23 sion, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
 24 3103).

1 “(2) SMALLER ESTABLISHMENT; VERY SMALL
 2 ESTABLISHMENT.—The terms ‘smaller establish-
 3 ment’ and ‘very small establishment’ have the mean-
 4 ings given those terms in the final rule entitled
 5 ‘Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical
 6 Control Point (HACCP) Systems’ (61 Fed. Reg.
 7 38806 (July 25, 1996)).

8 “(3) STRUCTURED APPRENTICESHIP.—The
 9 term ‘structured apprenticeship’ means an appren-
 10 ticeship program that—

11 “(A) provides most of the training on the
 12 job in a meat or poultry processing facility;

13 “(B) describes in detail—

14 “(i) all of the competencies necessary
 15 to work in a meat or poultry processing fa-
 16 cility; and

17 “(ii) the competencies that are nec-
 18 essary to own and operate a meat or poul-
 19 try processing facility that is a smaller es-
 20 tablishment or a very small establishment;

21 “(C) describes the level of knowledge, skill,
 22 and ability the apprentice ought to attain in
 23 each competency;

24 “(D) includes a component for someone
 25 other than the trainer—

1 “(i) to assess competency attainment;

2 and

3 “(ii) to assure that all competencies

4 are being addressed during the apprentice-

5 ship;

6 “(E) includes an individualized plan for

7 each apprentice that—

8 “(i) considers prior knowledge, skill,

9 and ability; and

10 “(ii) allows for apprentices to opt out

11 of competencies irrelevant to their career

12 goals; and

13 “(F) focuses on individuals who will work

14 in or operate meat or poultry processing facili-

15 ties that are smaller establishments or very

16 small establishments.

17 “(b) PROCESSOR CAREER TRAINING PROGRAMS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide

19 competitive grants to junior or community colleges,

20 technical or vocational schools, nonprofit organiza-

21 tions, worker training centers, and land-grant col-

22 leges and universities to establish or expand career

23 training programs, including for structured appren-

24 ticeships, relating to meat and poultry processing.

1 “(2) APPLICATIONS FOR SMALL GRANTS.—The
2 Secretary shall establish a separate, simplified appli-
3 cation and reporting process for entities described in
4 paragraph (1) applying for a grant under this sub-
5 section of not more than \$100,000.

6 “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
7 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
8 retary to carry out this subsection \$10,000,000 for
9 each of fiscal years 2025 through 2030.”.

○