CONSENT CALENDAR

May 9, 2023

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on Environment and Agriculture to which was referred SB 23,

AN ACT establishing a study committee on meat processing. Having considered the same, report the same with the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.

Rep. Barbara Comtois

FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	**Environment and Agriculture**
Bill Number:	**SB 23**
Title:	**establishing a study committee on meat processing.**
Date:	**May 9, 2023**
Consent Calendar:	**CONSENT**
Recommendation:	**OUGHT TO PASS**

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This is a necessary study committee that will look at the slaughter/processing regulations and procedures for non-amenable species (bison, deer, elk, etc.). The committee will examine the problems encountered to transport bison, deer, or elk (etc.) to get them to a USDA facility for slaughter and the coordination necessary to get to the facility on time to meet the on-site state-approved veterinarian. With USDA facilities booking one to two years out, the coordination effort can be daunting. This committee will discuss these and other problems encountered with non-amenable species slaughter/processing and examine solutions to streamline the process. Food sustainability should be a top priority for NH.

Vote 19-0.

Rep. Barbara Comtois
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

Environment and Agriculture

SB 23, establishing a study committee on meat processing. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Barbara Comtois for Environment and Agriculture. This is a necessary study committee that will look at the slaughter/processing regulations and procedures for non-amenable species (bison, deer, elk, etc.). The committee will examine the problems encountered to transport bison, deer, or elk (etc.) to get them to a USDA facility for slaughter and the coordination necessary to get to the facility on time to meet the on-site state-approved veterinarian. With USDA facilities booking one to two years out, the coordination effort can be daunting. This committee will discuss these and other problems encountered with non-amenable species slaughter/processing and examine solutions to streamline the process. Food sustainability should be a top priority for NH. **Vote 19-0.**

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

PUBLIC HEARING ON SB 23

BILL TITLE: **establishing a study committee on meat processing.**

DATE: **April 25, 2023**

LOB ROOM: **301-303** **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** **9:32 a.m.**

Time Adjourned: **9:54 a.m.**

Committee Members: Reps. Aron, Creighton, Comtois, Verville, A. Davis, Brouillard, Coulon, Kenny, Potenza, Smart, Bixby, Sofikitis, Dutzy, M. Murray, Germana, Haskins, M. Howard, Knab, Morse and Vogt

Bill Sponsors:

Sen. Innis	**Sen. Ward**	**Sen. Lang**
Sen. Whitley	**Rep. Payeur**	**Rep. Wolf**
Rep. S. Gould		

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

- Senator Innis – introducing – this focuses on non-amenable species – study commission – there is one thing we need to adjust is line 31 the completion date maybe should change to June 2024
- Rep Bixby – there is a certain reluctance on the part of House leadership to take on study committees – would you entertain a change to 2 Reps and 2 Senators instead of 3 and 1 A. Yes
- Rep Creighton – what type of recommendation do you see this committee doing A. how to streamline for small farmers and food safety
- Rep Murray – scope of the study committee, are you also looking at education components A. do not see anything wrong with that
- Rep Coulon – could this commission lead to some type of labeling system A. it could
- Commissioner Jasper – Department of Agriculture – in favor – we support eliminating the state meat inspection program – a lot of value in looking at the non-amenable products
- Rep Howard – USDA in MA were too expensive for small farmers A. puzzled by that federal standards requirement are supposed to be the same for all states – AARPA funds $750,000 are going out to various processors in the state to help them expand, UNH Extension will be setting a mobile class under state program they would be responsible for 50% of cost vs 0 under federal program
- Rep Bixby – what is the process for selling non-amenable species A. the difficulty of going to a USDA inspection, must have a veterinarian on-site pre and post moratorium, the untamedness of the bison in getting them to the facility, it is not being done correctly – too expensive with the way the statue has it set up Q. Deer and elk must be processed at USDA facilities currently , do they have more difficulty getting their animals to the facility? A. do not have to have the animal fully processed at the facility only slaughtered at the USDA facility, but can then have them processed at a non-USDA facility
- Rep Murray – would the study committee look at non-amenable species for sale on the shelf in the grocery stores A. do not know
- Rep Comtois – maybe change to 3 Reps and 2 Senators for purposes of a quorum

Respectfully submitted,
Rep. Comtois, Clerk

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

1/5/2023 1:25:09 PM
Roll Call Committee Registers Report

2023 SESSION

Executive Departments and Administration

Bill #: _____ **Motion:** _____ **AM #:** _____ **Exec Session Date:** _____

Members	YEAS	Nays	NV
McGuire, Carol M. Chairman			
Simon, Matthew J. Vice Chairman			
Lekas, Tony			
Bailey, Glenn			
Santonastaso, Matthew			
True, Chris			
Dolan, Tom			
Abare, Kimberly L			
Gerhard, Jason			
Sirois, Shane A			
Grote, Jaci L.			
Schmidt, Peter B.			
Goley, Jeffrey P.			
Schuett, Dianne E.			
O'Brien, Michael B.			
Wilhelm, Matthew B.			
Davis, Fred E.			
Fitzpatrick, Daniel W			
Gould, Sherry L			
Smith, Juliet L			
TOTAL VOTE:			

House Remote Testify

Environment and Agriculture Committee Testify List for Bill SB23 on 2023-04-25

Support: 2 Oppose: 0 Neutral: 1 Total to Testify: 0

Export to Excel

Name	City, State Email Address	Title	Representing	Position	Testifying	Non-Germane	Signed Up
Lang, Senator Tim	Sanbornton, NH kathryn.cummings@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Senate District 2	Support	No	No	4/4/2023 2:49 PM
SAWTELLE, ERICK	LEE, NH esawtelles@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/23/2023 7:12 PM
Richardson, Daniel	Nashua, NH daniel6_22@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Neutral	No	No	4/24/2023 10:57 PM

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

EXECUTIVE SESSION on SB 23

BILL TITLE: establishing a study committee on meat processing.

DATE: May 9, 2023

LOB ROOM: 301-303

MOTIONS: OUGHT TO PASS

Moved by Rep. Comtois Seconded by Rep. Vogt Vote: 19-0

CONSENT CALENDAR: YES

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Barbara Comtois, Clerk

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

1/9/2023 12:02:26 PM
Roll Call Committee Registers Report

2023 SESSION

Environment and Agriculture

Bill #: SB23 Motion: OTP AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 5.9.23

Members	YEAS	Nays	NV
Aron, Judy F. Chairman	✓		
Creighton, Jim L. Vice Chairman	✓		
Comtois, Barbara Clerk	✓		
Verville, Kevin G.	✓		
Davis, Arnold G.	✓		
~~Brouillard, Jacob~~ Reed, Karen	✓		
Coulon, Matthew	✓		
Kenny, Catherine M	✓		
Potenza, Kelley L	✓		
Smart, Lisa A	✓		
Bixby, Peter W.	✓		
Sofikitis, Catherine M.			
Dutzy, Sherry	✓		
Murray, Megan A.	✓		
Germana, Nicholas A	✓		
Haskins, Linda J	✓		
Howard, Molly C	✓		
Knab, Allison	✓		
Morse, Corinne	✓		
Vogt, Robin	✓		
TOTAL VOTE:	19	0	

SB 23 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

01/19/2023 0031s

2023 SESSION

23-0986
09/08

SENATE BILL ***23***

AN ACT establishing a study committee on meat processing.

SPONSORS: Sen. Innis, Dist 7; Sen. Ward, Dist 8; Sen. Lang, Dist 2; Sen. Whitley, Dist 15; Rep. Payeur, Merr. 8; Rep. Wolf, Merr. 7; Rep. S. Gould, Merr. 8

COMMITTEE: Commerce

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study federal laws regarding meat processing and inspection and best practices for farms looking to process for sale meat from non-amenable species; identify other states currently exempting non-amenable species from inspection; and examine other states' meat inspection program.

- -

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics.***
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three

AN ACT establishing a study committee on meat processing.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study adding non-amenable species to the list of meat processing inspection exemptions and the creation of a state meat inspection program..

2 Membership and Compensation.

I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

(a) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(b) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the committee.

3 Duties. The committee shall:

I. Examine existing state and federal laws regarding meat processing inspection including the definitions of non-amenable and exotic species under the United States Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Services Guidelines.

II. Identify best practices for farms looking to process for sale meat from non-amenable species.

III. Identify other states currently exempting non-amenable species from inspection.

IV. Work with other state agencies, as needed.

V. Examine existing state and federal laws and regulations regarding state run meat inspection programs.

VI. Work with the department of agriculture, markets, and food, the department of health and human services, and the department of fish and game, to determine how the existing state meat inspection program could be modified.

VII. Identify other states currently using a state meat inspection program.

4 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named senate member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Three members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

5 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2023.

6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.