LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

SB23

Bill as Introduced

SB 23 - AS INTRODUCED

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

SB 23 - AS INTRODUCED

23-0986
09/08

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 and the department of health and human services, to determine how a state meat inspection program would be established.

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.

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

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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.

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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.

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CHAPTER 94
SB 23 - FINAL VERSION

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

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CHAPTER 94
SB 23 - FINAL VERSION

01/19/2023 0031s

23-0986
09/08

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:

94:1 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.

94:2 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.

94:3 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.

94:4 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.

94:5 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.

94:6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved: June 20, 2023
Effective Date: June 20, 2023

Amendments

Commerce
January 12, 2023
2023-0031s
09/08

Amendment to SB 23

Amend section 3 of the bill by replacing paragraph VI with the following:

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.

Committee Minutes

SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE
Commerce

Sen Bill Gannon, Chair
Sen Denise Ricciardi, Vice Chair
Sen Daniel Innis, Member
Sen Donna Soucy, Member
Sen Shannon Chandley, Member

Date: January 6, 2023

HEARINGS

Tuesday	01/10/2023
(Day)	(Date)

Commerce	State House 100	9:00 a.m.
(Name of Committee)	(Place)	(Time)

9:00 a.m.	**SB 22**	establishing a study commission to study automobile insurance for newly acquired vehicles.
9:15 a.m.	**SB 31**	relative to technical changes to the laws administered by the insurance department.
9:30 a.m.	**SB 23**	establishing a study committee on meat processing.
9:45 a.m.	**SB 37**	establishing a commission to study hospitality and tourism education in New Hampshire.
10:00 a.m.	**SB 21**	relative to the due date and delivery of monthly reports and fees to the liquor commission.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

Sponsors:

SB 22
Sen. Gendreau
Sen. Watters
Sen. Prentiss
Sen. Carson
Sen. Lang
Sen. Perkins Kwoka
Sen. Gannon
Rep. Rochefort

SB 31
Sen. Soucy
Rep. Potucek

SB 23
Sen. Innis
Rep. Payeur
Sen. Ward
Rep. Wolf
Sen. Lang
Rep. S. Gould
Sen. Whitley

SB 37
Sen. Innis

SB 21
Sen. Gannon

Aaron Jones 271-4063

Bill M. Gannon
Chairman

Senate Commerce Committee

Aaron Jones 271-4063

SB 23, establishing a study committee on meat processing.

Hearing Date: January 10, 2023

Time Opened: 9:30 a.m. **Time Closed:** 9:55 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Gannon, Ricciardi, Innis, Soucy and Chandley

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill 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.

Sponsors:

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

Who supports the bill: Senator Dan Innis, Senator Tim Lang, Nick Vailas, Erick Sawtelle, Henry Ahern

Who opposes the bill: Representative Peter Bixby

Who is neutral on the bill: Shawn Jasper (NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, & Food), Scott Mason (NH Fish & Game)

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Dan Innis

- This bill was designed to establish a committee to study processing opportunities, primarily for small farms.
- In his district, Senator Innis discovered how difficult it is to get animals processed in a timely manner. In some instances, it can take one to two years.
- Processing difficulties tend to stem from USDA requirements; however, Senator Innis believed there are opportunities to improve the efficiency and accessibility of processing, especially for local farmers.
- Senator Innis believed some states, such as Vermont, have worked towards more efficient ways to meeting USDA requirements without involving them.

- This bill would be a logical step to take because farm-to-table and locally grown foods are important to the state.

Nick Vailas

- Mr. Vailas said he is a non-amenable species farmer that has raised bison and elk for 28 years.
- The biggest challenge he has faced has been economic viability. To have his meat sold in local restaurants, he would have to transport his bison to an FDA facility that is three hours away. Compared to cattle, a fee must be paid to have a bison inspected, which is cost prohibitive and potentially dangerous.
- Typically, his bison are dispatched in the pastures with a veterinarian present, then they are transported to a slaughterhouse in Colebrook where the post-mortem exam is done.
- Mr. Vailas asked the Legislature to think outside the box as well as support improving existing processes.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition:

Representative Peter Bixby

- Representative Bixby served on a study committee that looked at meat inspection and slaughtering. They found that a state-run meat inspection program for amenable species was unnecessary, so he filed legislation to remove it from statute.
- Difficulties in hiring labor have been a roadblock to the processing of meat from amenable species. In addition, there are few existing slaughterhouses in the state.
- Representative Bixby believed it would be helpful to provide more funding as well as bolster workforce education.

Neutral Information Presented:

Shawn Jasper, Commissioner, NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, & Food

- Commissioner Jasper partially supported the bill; however, he believed some elements were unnecessary at this time.
- New Hampshire does have a state meat inspection program, which has never been used.
    - The federal government does cover 50% of the cost of state-run programs.
    - The federal government does cover 100% of the cost of inspections for USDA inspected facilities, except for overtime. An inspector is guaranteed to be in these facilities for 40 hours a week.

- This bill is similar to a study committee that was introduced in the House a few years ago.
- After working with the industry and the UNH Food Hub, the Department applied for an agricultural ARPA grant. The meat processing portion of the grant has been approved, and it is being used in two ways.
    - First, the Department has been working with the UNH Cooperative Extension to develop a mobile classroom. The program will be both hands on and conducted online. Commissioner Jasper believed this would help take the pressure off facilities by providing them with potential workers that have the skills they need.
    - Second, a $750,000 grant will be available to existing facilities for them to make upgrades. In East Conway, for example, a facility burnt down, and they did not have money to replace their equipment. The grant is expected to be limited to $200,000 per facility and requiring a 15% match. Commissioner Jasper believed the grant would be oversubscribed to; however, he hoped additional money would be provided.
- Commissioner Jasper did not believe the current meat inspection program was feasible. The requirements to process deer, bison, and elk are expensive and no one has complied to them.
    - Last year, for example, inspectors from NH Health and Human Services found bison meat being sold commercially, and it was subsequently removed from shelves.
- The Department is concerned about the safety of consumers, and they want to ensure any meat placed on shelves has been inspected.
- Bison cannot be taken into the same slaughterhouses as cows. Wild animals need to be killed and dressed on farms, then they need to have pre-mortem and post-mortem inspections done.
- Since a state program already exists, Commissioner Jasper suggested that the bill be narrowed.
- **Senator Innis** asked if the non-amenable language should be removed.
    - **Commissioner Jasper** believed it should stay. The USDA does not address non-amenable species; thus, states are left to determine what to do with their meat. While veterinarians are on-site for pre-mortem and post-mortem inspections, it can be cost prohibitive if not many are completed.
- **Senator Innis** believed a lot of small farms were only doing one or two animals at a time.
    - **Commissioner Jasper** said farmers and their families can consume the meat; however, they are not allowed to sell it without an inspection being done.
- **Senator Soucy** asked if the issue were someone shooting a bison and dressing it for their own consumption.
    - **Commissioner Jasper** replied no.

- **Senator Soucy** asked if the issue were bison meat being found on shelves.
    - **Commissioner Jasper** responded yes. A person could buy a cow on someone's property, and it could be slaughtered on-site. He was unsure if this worked the same way with wild animals.
- **Senator Soucy** asked if any of the duties of the committee should be eliminated or modified.
    - **Commissioner Jasper** replied that a state meat inspection program has already been established. Representative Peter Bixby filed a bill to eliminate parts of that program; however, it is not applicable to non-amenable species. Regardless, NH has the same standards as the federal government.

Scott Mason, Executive Director, NH Fish & Game

- The Department had no position on this bill; however, they requested Roman VI of Section 3 include NH Fish and Game.
- The Department is concerned with the transmission of wildlife diseases between domesticated wildlife species and current birds and flocks. Transmission can occur through importation, or the improper disposal of waste products from slaughterhouse operations.

AJ
Date Hearing Report completed: January 11, 2023

Speakers

Senate Commerce Committee
SIGN-IN SHEET

Date: 01/10/2023 **Time:** 9:30 a.m.

SB 23 An ACT establishing a study committee on meat processing.

Name/Representing *(please print neatly)*

Nick Vailas	Support ☑	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☑ No ☐
Sen Lang	Support ☑	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☒
Scott Mason NHFG	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☒ No ☐
Rep. Peter Bixby	Support ☐	Oppose ☑	Speaking?	Yes ☑ No ☐
Sharyl Jasper NHDMAF	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☒ No ☐
Sen. Dan Innis (SD7) Prime	Support ☑	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☑ No ☐
Sen. Ruth Ward (SD8)	Support ☑	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☑
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Support ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐ No ☐

Senate Remote Testify

Commerce Committee Testify List for Bill SB23 on 2023-01-10

Support: 3 Oppose: 0

Name	Title	Representing	Position
Lang, Senator Tim	An Elected Official	Senate District 2	Support
Ahern, Henry	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
SAWTELLE, ERICK	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support

Voting Sheets

Senate Commerce Committee

EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD

2023-2024 Session

Bill # SB 23

Hearing date: 1/10/23

Executive Session date: 1/10/23

Motion of: OTP-A **Vote:** 5-0

Committee Member	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gannon, Chair		✓	✓	
Sen. Ricciardi, V-Chair			✓	
Sen. Innis			✓	
Sen. Soucy			✓	
Sen. Chandley	✓		✓	

Motion of: Amendment **Vote:** 5-0

Committee Member	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gannon, Chair			✓	
Sen. Ricciardi, V-Chair	✓		✓	
Sen. Innis	✓	✓	✓	
Sen. Soucy		✓	✓	
Sen. Chandley			✓	

Motion of: Consent **Vote:** 5-0

Committee Member	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gannon, Chair			✓	
Sen. Ricciardi, V-Chair			✓	
Sen. Innis		✓	✓	
Sen. Soucy	✓	✓	✓	
Sen. Chandley	✓		✓	

Reported out by: Sen. Innis

Notes:

Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Thursday, January 12, 2023

THE COMMITTEE ON Commerce

to which was referred **SB 23**

AN ACT establishing a study committee on meat processing.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

BY A VOTE OF: 5-0

AMENDMENT # 0031s

Senator Daniel Innis
For the Committee

In New Hampshire, small farms have consistently faced difficulties in processing animal meat in a timely manner. This bill would create a study committee to find ways to make existing processes more efficient. The Committee Amendment acknowledged that a state meat inspection program does exist, and discussion of that program and its limitations were held with the Department of Agriculture.

Aaron Jones 271-4063

FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

COMMERCE

SB 23, establishing a study committee on meat processing.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.
Senator Daniel Innis for the committee.

In New Hampshire, small farms have consistently faced difficulties in processing animal meat in a timely manner. This bill would create a study committee to find ways to make existing processes more efficient. The Committee Amendment acknowledged that a state meat inspection program does exist, and discussion of that program and its limitations were held with the Department of Agriculture.

Docket of SB23

Docket Abbreviations

Bill Title: establishing a study committee on meat processing.

Official Docket of **SB23.**:

Date	Body	Description
1/5/2023	S	**Introduced** 01/05/2023 and Referred to Commerce; **SJ 4**
1/6/2023	S	**Hearing:** 01/10/2023, Room 100, SH, 09:30 am; **SC 5**
1/12/2023	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment **#2023-0031s**, 01/19/2023; Vote 5-0; CC; **SC 6**
1/19/2023	S	Committee Amendment **#2023-0031s**, AA, VV; 01/19/2023; **SJ 4**
1/19/2023	S	**Ought to Pass with Amendment** 2023-0031s, MA, VV; OT3rdg; 01/19/2023; **SJ 4**
3/20/2023	H	Introduced (in recess of) 03/16/2023 and referred to Environment and Agriculture
4/4/2023	H	Public Hearing: 04/25/2023 09:30 am LOB 301-303
5/2/2023	H	Full Committee Work Session: 05/09/2023 09:30 am LOB 301-303
5/2/2023	H	Executive Session: 05/09/2023 01:00 pm LOB 301-303
5/11/2023	H	Committee Report: Ought to Pass 05/09/2023 **(Vote 19-0; CC)**
5/18/2023	H	**Ought to Pass**: MA VV 05/18/2023 **HJ 14**
6/13/2023	H	Enrolled (in recess of) 06/08/2023 **HJ 15**
6/13/2023	S	Enrolled Adopted, VV, (In recess 06/08/2023); **SJ 19**
6/21/2023	S	Signed by the Governor on 06/20/2023; Chapter 0094; Effective 06/20/2023

NH House	NH Senate

Other Referrals

Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives

Bill Number: SB 23 **Senate Committee:** Commerce

Please include all documents in the order listed below and indicate the documents which have been included with an "X" beside

X Final docket found on Bill Status

Bill Hearing Documents: {Legislative Aides}

X Bill version as it came to the committee

X All Calendar Notices

X Hearing Sign-up sheet(s)

N/A Prepared testimony, presentations, & other submissions handed in at the public hearing

X Hearing Report

N/A Revised/Amended Fiscal Notes provided by the Senate Clerk's Office

Committee Action Documents: {Legislative Aides}

All amendments considered in committee (including those not adopted):

X - amendment # 00315 ___ - amendment #_____

___ - amendment #_____ ___ - amendment #_____

X Executive Session Sheet

X Committee Report

Floor Action Documents: {Clerk's Office}

All floor amendments considered by the body during session (only if they are offered to the senate):

___ - amendment #_____ ___ - amendment #_____

___ - amendment #_____ ___ - amendment #_____

Post Floor Action: (if applicable) {Clerk's Office}

___ Committee of Conference Report (if signed off by all members. Include any new language proposed by the committee of conference):

___ Enrolled Bill Amendment(s)

___ Governor's Veto Message

All available versions of the bill: {Clerk's Office}

X as amended by the senate ___ as amended by the house

___ final version

Completed Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:

Aaron Jones 8/10/23

Committee Aide **Date**

Senate Clerk's Office AK