

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE  
FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

THE COMMITTEE ON Commerce

to which was referred **HB 396**

AN ACT

relative to the processing of beef cows, swine,  
sheep, and goats at facilities not certified by the  
United States Department of Agriculture.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

ought to pass with amendment

by a vote of: 5-0

Amendment # 2026-1719s

Senator Daniel Innis  
For the Committee

This bill would allow farms to send a limited number of beef cows, swine, sheep, and goats to be processed per month by a farm or a producer at a facility that is not certified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Bringing animals to a USDA facility can be lengthy and arduous leading to animals undergoing stress, which can impact the quality of the meat. It is also very difficult for small farms to get an appointment, some take up to 2 years, at USDA facilities. This bill would make it easier for small farmers to do business as well as open the market for consumers to purchase affordable, locally grown food. The Committee Amendment clarified that products would be labeled as “initially processed” rather than “slaughtered.” It also would require the Department to develop through rulemaking an annual training program for farmers.

Aaron Jones 271-2609

FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

**COMMERCE**

**HB 396**, relative to the processing of beef cows, swine, sheep, and goats at facilities not certified by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator Daniel Innis for the committee.

This bill would allow farms to send a limited number of beef cows, swine, sheep, and goats to be processed per month by a farm or a producer at a facility that is not certified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Bringing animals to a USDA facility can be lengthy and arduous leading to animals undergoing stress, which can impact the quality of the meat. It is also very difficult for small farms to get an appointment, some take up to 2 years, at USDA facilities. This bill would make it easier for small farmers to do business as well as open the market for consumers to purchase affordable, locally grown food. The Committee Amendment clarified that products would be labeled as “initially processed” rather than “slaughtered.” It also would require the Department to develop through rulemaking an annual training program for farmers.