

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 117**

Introduced by Brandt, 32.

Read first time January 06, 2023

Committee: Agriculture

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Nebraska Meat and Poultry Inspection
- 2 Law; to amend section 54-1915.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of
- 3 Nebraska; to change an applicant eligibility standard under the
- 4 Independent Processor Assistance Program; and to repeal the original
- 5 section.
- 6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 54-1915.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,  
2 is amended to read:

3 54-1915.02 (1) The Independent Processor Assistance Program is  
4 created. The department shall administer the program contingent on funds  
5 being made available for such purpose.

6 (2) The purpose of the Independent Processor Assistance Program is  
7 to:

8 (a) Address supply chain disruptions caused by a public health  
9 emergency;

10 (b) Increase and improve livestock slaughter and meat processing  
11 capacity;

12 (c) Expand market access for small livestock producers; and

13 (d) Facilitate workforce development.

14 (3) In administering the Independent Processor Assistance Program,  
15 the department may develop policies and procedures for the disbursement  
16 of funds authorized by this section that include, at a minimum, the  
17 following:

18 (a) Applicant eligibility standards. At a minimum, such standards  
19 shall require that eligible applicants:

20 (i) Operate as a federally inspected, state-inspected, or custom-  
21 exempt slaughter and processing facility domiciled in Nebraska;

22 (ii) Demonstrate existing ~~sales revenue of less than two million~~  
23 ~~five hundred thousand dollars and~~ employment of fewer than fifty full-  
24 time-equivalent ~~twenty-five~~ employees; and

25 (iii) Be registered in good standing with the Secretary of State to  
26 do business in Nebraska; and

27 (b) Expense eligibility standards. At a minimum, such standards  
28 shall include:

29 (i) Capital improvements to expand capacity, including expansion and  
30 modifications to existing buildings or construction of new buildings at  
31 existing facilities;

1 (ii) Upgrades to utilities, including water, electric, heat,  
2 refrigeration, freezing, and waste facilities;

3 (iii) Livestock intake and storage equipment;

4 (iv) Processing and manufacturing equipment, including cutting  
5 equipment, mixers, grinders, sausage stuffers, smokers, curing equipment,  
6 pipes, motors, pumps, and valves;

7 (v) Packaging and handling equipment, including sealing, bagging,  
8 boxing, labeling, conveying, and product-moving equipment;

9 (vi) Warehouse equipment, including storage and curing racks;

10 (vii) Waste treatment and management equipment, including tanks,  
11 blowers, separators, dryers, digesters, and equipment that uses waste to  
12 produce energy, fuel, or industrial products;

13 (viii) Technology that allows increased capacity or business  
14 resilience, including software and hardware related to business  
15 functions, logistics, inventory management, plant production controls,  
16 temperature monitoring controls, and website design that enables e-  
17 commerce;

18 (ix) Rental of buildings, facilities, or equipment necessary to  
19 expand capacity, including mobile slaughter units and mobile  
20 refrigeration units used exclusively for meat or poultry processing;

21 (x) Costs associated with increased inspections or becoming  
22 inspected, including overtime inspection services by the Food Safety and  
23 Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture and  
24 hazard analysis and critical control point consultation services; and

25 (xi) Educational and workforce training provided either by the  
26 facility or by an institution of higher education.

27 (4) The department may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to  
28 carry out the purposes of the Independent Processor Assistance Program.

29 Sec. 2. Original section 54-1915.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
30 Nebraska, is repealed.