

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 185

By Senator Chapman

[Introduced February 12, 2025; referred
to the Committee on Agriculture]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,
2 designated §19-2-14, relating to requiring a label for any lab grown meat being sold to the
3 general public in this state.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. MARKETING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

§19-2-14. Requiring label of "lab grown meat" for sale to the public.

1 (a) Definition. – "Lab-grown meat" is defined as meat developed from animal cell culture,
2 and not via traditional raising and slaughter of living animals, and is further defined as:

3 (1) A food product intended for use as human food that is produced without slaughter by
4 growing, in a controlled environment, cells harvested from species amenable to federal meat
5 inspection laws, or cells harvested from shellfish species or big game, game birds, or fish, and

6 (2) Includes food or a food additive produced in the manner described in subsection (1)
7 and used as an ingredient or component in a food.

8 (b) Enactment. – Any company who sells lab grown meat in this state shall conspicuously
9 display a label on the product to inform the public that the product is "lab grown meat," and shall
10 separately list the complete amount of ingredients within the product.

11 (c) Penalty. –

12 (1) If the West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture ("commissioner") believes that a
13 person or company is violating or has violated the provisions of this section, the commissioner
14 shall notify the person or company, in writing, of the violation.

15 (2) The notice shall include, at a minimum, the information supporting a finding of the
16 violation, a statement that the person or company has 10 days following service of the notice to
17 submit a written request for a hearing or the commissioner's findings become final, and a stop sale
18 order, if the finding becomes final or after a hearing held in accordance with this bill.

19 (3) If the commissioner finds that a person or company has violated the provisions of this
20 section, then the person or company shall be subject to a fine in an amount set forth by the

21 commissioner, and the commissioner may revoke the person or company's permit for a food
22 establishment if the person or company is found to have violated this section in connection with the
23 food establishment.

24 (4) In addition to these penalties, any improperly labeled lab grown meat that is imported,
25 sold, or distributed in violation of this section is subject to forfeiture.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require a label informing the public of lab grown meat being sold in this state.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.