



HOUSE BILL 134: Prohibit Misbranding of Certain Food Products.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee: House Commerce and Economic Development. If favorable, re-refer to Agriculture and Environment. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House **Date:** March 11, 2025

Introduced by: Rep. Dixon **Prepared by:** Chris Saunders

Analysis of: PCS to First Edition H134-CSTQ-1 **Staff Attorney**

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) to House Bill 134 would prohibit misbranding of meat and poultry products by requiring the label of any cell-cultured food product containing an identifying meat or poultry term to include an appropriate qualifying term in close proximity to the name of the product and in a specified font size.*

The PCS would eliminate the labeling requirements for plant-based and insect-based food products, so it would only apply to cell-cultured products.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 1.(a) of the PCS would create several definitions within Article 49B of Chapter 106 of the General Statutes (Meat Inspection Requirements; Adulteration and Misbranding), applicable to meat products, including the following:

- **Cell-cultured food product** would mean a food product having one or more sensory attributes that resemble a type of tissue originating from an agricultural food animal but that, in lieu of being derived from meat processing, is derived from manufacturing cells, in which one or more stem cells are initially isolated from an agricultural food animal, are grown in vitro, and may be manipulated, as part of a manufacturing operation.
- **Identifying meat term** would mean any word or phrase that states, indicates, suggests, or describes a meat product, regardless of whether the word or phrase is used individually, as a portmanteau, or as a compound word. Examples include meat, beef, veal, lamb, or pork.
- **Qualifying term** would mean a word, compound word, or phrase that would clearly disclose to a reasonable purchaser of meat products that a food product is a cell-cultured food product. Examples include cell-cultured, fake, grown in a lab, or lab-grown.

Section 1.(b) of the PCS would require the label of any cell-cultured food product that contains an identifying meat term to include an appropriate qualifying term in close proximity to the name of the product and in at least 20 point font or the size of the surrounding type, whichever is greater.

Section 2 would create the same labeling requirements for poultry products as those in Section 1.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective October 1, 2025, and apply to products sold or offered for sale on or after that date.

Jessica Boney, counsel to the House Health Committee, substantially contributed to this summary.

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