

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

Amend the resolve in section 1 in the last line (page 1, line 18 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "is authorized." and inserting the following: 'is authorized only if the rule is amended to:'

Amend the resolve in section 1 by inserting at the end the following:

- '1. Include requirements for the humane handling and slaughter of poultry;
2. Revise the requirement that hot running water under pressure be provided in all areas to allow alternative methods of supplying hot water at safe temperatures and temperatures needed for sanitization;
3. Allow the poultry processing area to be located outside as long as it is separated from the slaughter and defeathering operation by dividers or distances sufficient to prevent contamination from the slaughter area; and
4. Provide a delayed effective date for the rule or a phase-in period to give growers and producers an opportunity to seek advice and bring their facilities into compliance with the rule.

The Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources is not required to hold hearings or conduct other formal proceedings prior to finally adopting the rule in accordance with this resolve.'

SUMMARY

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. It requires the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to revise Chapter 348: Poultry Slaughter and Processing with Grower/Producer Exemption to include requirements for the humane handling and slaughter of poultry, allow hot water to be provided by a means other than "running under pressure," allow outdoor processing and delay the effective date to allow growers and producers time to bring their facilities into compliance. It authorizes the commissioner to finally adopt the rule with these revisions without additional hearings or proceedings.