

LEGISLATIVE BILL 835

Approved by the Governor August 06, 2020

Introduced by Halloran, 33; Brandt, 32; Brewer, 43; Gragert, 40; Hansen, B., 16; Moser, 22; Murman, 38; Slama, 1.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Department of Agriculture; to amend sections 81-2,288.01, 89-186, and 89-187.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 81-2,244.01, 81-2,257, 81-2,270, 89-187, and 89-187.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018; to change the Nebraska Pure Food Act by changing and eliminating definitions, providing a priority item designation, eliminating obsolete references, and changing regulatory authority inspection reporting requirements; to change the Weights and Measures Act by updating certain standards and regulations, changing provisions relating to department device inspection fees, removing obsolete provisions, and eliminating a signature requirement on a permit application; to repeal the original sections; and to outright repeal section 81-2,243.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 81-2,244.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

81-2,244.01 Food Code shall mean the 2017 ~~2013~~ Recommendations of the United States Public Health Service, Food and Drug Administration, except the definitions of adulterated food and food establishment, person in charge, regulatory authority, and sections 2-102.12, 2-102.20(B), 2-103.11(I) and (M) ~~2-103.11(L)~~, ~~2-501.11~~, 3-301.11(B), (C), (D), and (E), 3-501.16, 4-301.12(C) (5), (D), and (E), 4-603.16(C), 4-802.11(C), 5-104.11, ~~6-301.14~~, 8-101, 8-102, 8-201.11, 8-201.12, ~~8-202.10~~ 8-202 through 8-304.20 ~~8-304~~, 8-401.10(B)(2), 8-402.20 through 8-403.20, 8-403.50 through 8-404.12, and 8-405.20(B). The term Food Code does not include the annexes of such federal recommendations.

Sec. 2. Section 81-2,257, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

81-2,257 Priority items are designated in the Food Code and sections 81-2,272.01, 81-2,272.10, and 81-2,272.24. Priority foundation items are designated in the Food Code.

Sec. 3. Section 81-2,270, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

81-2,270 (1) No person shall operate: (a) A food establishment; (b) a food processing plant; or (c) a salvage operation, without a valid permit which sets forth the types of operation occurring within the establishment.

(2) Application for a permit shall be made to the director on forms prescribed and furnished by the department. Such application shall include the applicant's full name and mailing address, the names and addresses of any partners, members, or corporate officers, the name and address of the person authorized by the applicant to receive the notices and orders of the department as provided in the Nebraska Pure Food Act, whether the applicant is an individual, partnership, limited liability company, corporation, or other legal entity, the location and type of proposed establishment or operation, and the signature of the applicant. Application for a permit shall be made prior to the operation of a food establishment, food processing plant, or salvage operation. The application shall be accompanied by an initial permit fee and an initial inspection fee in the same amount as the annual inspection fee if inspections are required to be done by the department. If the food establishment, food processing plant, or salvage operation has been in operation prior to applying for a permit or notifying the regulatory authority, the applicant shall pay an additional fee of sixty dollars.

(3) Payment of the initial permit fee, the initial inspection fee, and the fee for failing to apply for a permit prior to operation shall not preclude payment of the annual inspection fees due on August 1 of each year. Except as provided in subsections (7) through (10) of this section and subsection (2) of section 81-2,281, a permitholder shall pay annual inspection fees on or before August 1 of each year regardless of when the initial permit was obtained.

(4)(a) The director shall set the initial permit fee and the annual inspection fees on or before July 1 of each fiscal year to meet the criteria in this subsection. The director may raise or lower the fees each year, but the fees shall not exceed the maximum fees listed in subdivision (4)(b) of this section. The director shall determine the fees based on estimated annual revenue and fiscal year-end cash fund balance as follows:

(i) The estimated annual revenue shall not be greater than one hundred seven percent of program cash fund appropriations allocated for the Nebraska Pure Food Act;

(ii) The estimated fiscal year-end cash fund balance shall not be greater than seventeen percent of program cash fund appropriations allocated for the act; and

(iii) All fee increases or decreases shall be equally distributed between all categories.

(b) The maximum fees are:

			Additional Food Preparation Area	No Food Preparation Area, Unit Or Units
Food Handling Activity	Initial Permit Fee	Annual Inspection Fee	Inspection Fee (per area)	Annual Inspection Fee
Convenience Store	\$86.19	\$86.19	\$43.09	N/A
Itinerant Food Vendor Licensed Beverage Establishment	\$86.19	\$86.19	\$43.09	N/A
Limited Food Service Establishment	\$86.19	\$86.19	\$43.09	N/A
Temporary Food Establishment	\$86.19	\$86.19	\$43.09	N/A
Food Delivery Service	\$86.19	N/A	N/A	\$17.23
Mobile Food Unit (for each unit)	\$86.19	N/A	N/A	\$43.09
Pushcart (for each unit)	\$86.19	N/A	N/A	\$17.23
Vending Machine Operations:	\$86.19			
One to ten units		N/A	N/A	\$17.23
Eleven to twenty units		N/A	N/A	\$34.46
Twenty-one to thirty units		N/A	N/A	\$51.69
Thirty-one to forty units		N/A	N/A	\$68.92
Over forty units		N/A	N/A	\$86.15
Food Processing Plant	\$86.19	\$120.64	\$43.09	N/A
Salvage Operation	\$86.19	\$120.64	\$43.09	N/A
Commissary	\$86.19	\$120.64	\$43.09	N/A
All Other Food Establishments	\$86.19	\$120.64	\$43.09	N/A

(5) If a food establishment is engaged in more than one food handling activity listed in subsection (4) of this section, the inspection fee charged shall be based upon the primary activity conducted within the food establishment as determined by the department and any fees assessed for each additional food preparation area within the primary establishment as determined by the department.

(6) If a person fails to pay the inspection fee for more than one month after the fee is due, such person shall pay a late fee equal to fifty percent of the total fee for the first month that the fee is late and one hundred percent for the second month that the fee is late. The purpose of the late fee

is to cover the administrative costs associated with collecting fees. All money collected as a late fee shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the Pure Food Cash Fund.

(7) An educational institution, health care facility, nursing home, or governmental organization operating any type of food establishment, other than a mobile food unit or pushcart, is exempt from the requirements in subsections (1) through (6) of this section.

(8) A food establishment which produces eggs and only stores, packages, sells, delivers, or otherwise provides for human consumption the eggs it produces, or only stores, packages, sells, delivers, or otherwise provides for human consumption eggs produced from no more than four producers at the same time, is exempt from the requirements of subsections (1) through (6) of this section. ~~Any food establishment with a valid egg handler license and for which all fees have been paid prior to August 24, 2017, is exempt from the permit and inspection fee requirements of the Nebraska Pure Food Act until August 1, 2018.~~

(9) A food establishment or food processing plant holding a permit under the Nebraska Milk Act is exempt from the requirements of subsections (1) through (6) of this section.

(10) A single event food vendor or a religious, charitable, or fraternal organization operating any type of temporary food establishment, mobile food unit, or pushcart is exempt from the requirements of subsections (1) through (6) of this section. Any such organization operating any nontemporary food establishment prior to July 1, 1985, is exempt from the requirements of subsection (2) of this section.

Sec. 4. Section 81-2,288.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-2,288.01 (1) The regulatory authority shall document on an inspection report form:

(a) Administrative information about the food establishment's legal identity, street and mailing addresses, type of establishment and operation, inspection date, status of the permit, and personnel certificates that may be required;

(b) Specific factual observations of violative conditions, omissions, or other deviations from the requirements of the Nebraska Pure Food Act that require correction by the permitholder; and

(c) Whether the violations listed are priority items, priority foundation items, critical or repeated.

(2) The regulatory authority shall specify on the inspection report form the timeframe for correction of the violations as specified in the Nebraska Pure Food Act.

(3) All procedures and requirements related to the inspection of food establishments in the act apply to food processing plants and salvage operations.

(4) The completed inspection report form is a public document that shall be made available for public disclosure to any person who requests it according to law.

Sec. 5. Section 89-186, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

89-186 (1) The Legislature hereby adopts by reference the following:

(a) The standards of the National Conference on Weights and Measures published in National Institute of Standards and Technology Handbook 44 entitled Specifications, Tolerances, and Other Technical Requirements for Weighing and Measuring Devices as it existed on January 1, 2019 ~~2003~~, except Section 3.31. Vehicle - Tank meters. UR.2.2. Ticket Printer, Printers; Customer Ticket, Section 2.20. Scales, N.3. Minimum Test Weights and Test Loads; and Table 4, are not adopted. In addition to the language found in Section 3.30. Liquid-Measuring Devices, S.1.6.4., S.1.6.5., UR.3.2., and UR.3.3. of such handbook, any computing device in which a product or grade is offered for sale at more than one unit price may also compute at the lowest possible unit price for such transaction. All prices shall still be displayed or posted on the face of the dispenser. Such handbook shall govern all commercial and law enforcement weighing and measuring devices in the state;

(b) The Uniform Regulation for the Method of Sale of Commodities of the National Conference on Weights and Measures published in National Institute of Standards and Technology Handbook 130 entitled Uniform Laws and Regulations in the Areas of Legal Metrology and Engine Fuel Quality as it existed on January 1, 2019 ~~2003~~. Such handbook shall be used to determine the proper units of measurement to be used in the keeping for sale or sale of commodities;

(c) The Uniform Packaging and Labeling Regulation of the National Conference on Weights and Measures published in National Institute of Standards and Technology Handbook 130 entitled Uniform Laws and Regulations in the Areas of Legal Metrology and Engine Fuel Quality as it existed on January 1, 2019 ~~2003~~. Such handbook shall govern the packaging and labeling by weight, measure, or count of commodities kept for sale or sold in this state; and

(d) The procedures designated in National Institute of Standards and Technology Handbook 133 entitled Checking the Net Contents of Packaged Goods as it existed on January 1, 2019 ~~2003~~.

(2) Copies of the handbooks adopted by reference in this section shall be filed with the Secretary of State, Clerk of the Legislature, and Department of Agriculture. Copies filed with the Clerk of the Legislature shall be filed electronically.

(3) Whenever there exists an inconsistency between the provisions of the Weights and Measures Act other than this section and any of the handbooks

adopted by reference, the requirements of such provisions of the act shall control.

Sec. 6. Section 89-187, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

89-187 For purposes of administering and enforcing the Weights and Measures Act, the director is authorized to ~~The director shall:~~

(1) Maintain traceability of the primary standards to the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

(2) Enforce the provisions of the Weights and Measures Act;

(3) Adopt and promulgate reasonable rules and regulations for the enforcement of the act including the following:

(a) Requirements for the voluntary registration of sales and repair personnel for commercial weighing and measuring devices including:

(i) Registration fees for such personnel which shall not exceed the actual cost to defray the operation of the voluntary registration program;

(ii)(A) Qualifications for registration, which may include examinations, (B) performance standards to maintain registration, (C) types of equipment necessary for the work to be performed by the personnel, (D) responsibilities and privileges of registration, and (E) revocation and suspension of such registration and probation of the registrant; and

(iii) Minimum standards for the installation and maintenance of commercial weighing and measuring devices;

(b) Additional standards not specifically provided for in the act;

(c) Standards for (i) attachments or parts entering into the construction or installation of commercial weighing and measuring devices which shall tend to secure correct results in the use of such devices and (ii) the setting of laboratory fees which shall not exceed the actual cost for testing, correcting, calibrating, and verifying secondary standards and the establishment of standard laboratory operating procedures;

(d) Requirements for the suitable use of commercial weighing and measuring devices; and

(e) Guidelines for the appropriate method of weighing or measuring whenever the director determines that such guidelines would further the purpose of the act;

(4) Establish standards of weight, measure, or count, reasonable standards of fill, and standards for the presentation of cost-per-unit information for any commodity;

(5) Upon an application filed with the department by the applicant, grant exemptions, including specific exemptions for single-use commercial weighing and measuring devices, from the provisions of the act or the rules and regulations when the applicant on such application provides assurances, acceptable to the director, that such exemption is appropriate to the maintenance of good commercial practices within the state. Notwithstanding any other provision of the act, meters used by a public utility system for the measurement of electricity, natural or manufactured gas, water, or the usage of communication services, the appliances or accessories associated with such meters, and all weighing and measuring devices inspected or tested by the Public Service Commission shall be exempt from the registration, inspection, and testing requirements of the act, except that this exemption shall not apply to meters which determine the weight or measurement of motor fuel;

(6) Conduct investigations to insure compliance with the act;

(7) Delegate to appropriate personnel any of these responsibilities for the proper administration of the director's office;

(8) In his or her discretion, inspect and test weighing and measuring devices kept for sale or sold;

(9) Inspect and test annually and from time to time, as in the director's judgment seems necessary, to ascertain whether commercial weighing and measuring devices are correct;

(10) Register and test as far as practical all commercial weighing and measuring devices used in checking the receipt or disbursement of supplies in every institution for which funds are appropriated by the Legislature;

(11) Test annually and at the request of the Nebraska State Patrol all weighing and measuring devices used for the enforcement of sections 60-3,144, 60-3,147, and 60-6,294. The agency responsible for such weighing and measuring devices shall pay the department for the actual cost of such tests. The department shall bill test fees to such agency upon completion of the test;

(12) Approve for use and may mark commercial weighing and measuring devices which the director finds to be correct and shall reject and mark or tag as rejected such commercial weighing and measuring devices which the director finds to be not correct or not registered and inspected in accordance with the Weights and Measures Act. Commercial weighing and measuring devices that have been rejected may be seized if not made correct within the time specified or if used or disposed of in a manner not specifically authorized. The director shall condemn and may seize commercial weighing and measuring devices which are found not to be correct and not capable of being made correct;

(13) Weigh, measure, or inspect commodities kept for sale, sold, or in the process of delivery to determine whether they contain the amounts represented and whether they are kept for sale or sold in accordance with the act or the rules and regulations. When commodities are found not to contain the amounts represented or are found to be kept for sale, sold, or in the process of delivery in violation of the act, the director may issue stop-sale, hold, or removal orders and may mark or tag such commodities as being in violation of the act. In carrying out the provisions of this section, the director shall

employ recognized procedures pursuant to subdivisions (1)(b) through (d) of section 89-186;

(14) Provide for the weights and measures training of inspection personnel and adopt and promulgate by rule and regulation minimum training requirements which shall be met by all inspection personnel;

(15) Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations prescribing the appropriate term or unit of measurement to be used whenever the director determines in the case of a specific commodity that an existing practice of declaring the quantity by weight, measure, numerical count, or combination thereof does not facilitate value comparisons by consumers or offers an opportunity for consumer confusion;

(16) Allow reasonable variations from the stated quantity of contents which shall include those caused by loss or gain of moisture during the course of good distribution practice or by unavoidable deviations in good manufacturing practice only after the commodity has entered intrastate commerce;

(17) Verify advertised prices, price representations, and point-of-sale systems, as deemed necessary, to determine: (a) The accuracy of prices, quantity, and computations; (b) the correct use of the equipment; and (c) if such systems utilize scanning or coding means in lieu of manual entry, the accuracy of prices and quantity printed or recalled from a data base;

(18) On or before July 1 of each year, notify all persons who have registered any commercial weighing or measuring device of the amount of fees which are due and that the fees are due on August 1 and shall be delinquent after such date;

(19) Require all persons who operate a weighing and measuring establishment to obtain a permit to operate such establishment pursuant to section 89-187.01 and to pay to the department an application permit fee pursuant to section 89-187.02;

(20) Require all persons who operate a weighing and measuring establishment to, on or before August 1 of each year:

(a) Register each commercial weighing and measuring device with the department upon forms furnished by the director;

(b) Pay to the department a registration fee of four dollars; and

(c) Pay to the department a device inspection fee.

~~(i) The device inspection fee due August 1, 2003, shall be the amount in column A of subdivision (20)(c)(iii) of this section.~~

~~(i) (ii) The device inspection fee shall be due August 1, 2004, and each August 1 and thereafter shall be set by the director on or before July 1 of each year. The director may raise or lower the device inspection fees each year to meet the criteria in this subdivision, but the fee shall not be greater than the amount in column B of subdivision (20)(c)(ii) (20)(c)(iii) of this section. The same percentage shall be applied to each device category for all device inspection fee increases or decreases. The director shall use the amounts in column A of subdivision (20)(c)(ii) of this section device inspection fees set for the fees due August 1, 2003, as a base for future fee increases or decreases. The director shall determine the fees based on estimated annual revenue and fiscal year-end cash fund balances as follows:~~

(A) The estimated annual revenue shall not be greater than one hundred seven percent of program cash fund appropriations allocated for the Weights and Measures Act; and

(B) The estimated fiscal year-end cash fund balance shall not be greater than seventeen percent of program cash fund appropriations allocated for the act.

~~(ii) (iii)~~

Scales:	A	B
Up through 35 pounds capacity	7.96	14.34
Multiunit Scales	51.00	80.37
Over 35 through 1,000 pounds capacity	15.13	25.35
Over 1,000 through 4,000 pounds capacity	31.87	51.03
Over 4,000 through 50,000 pounds capacity	36.65	58.36
Over 50,000 through 150,000 pounds capacity	39.04	62.03
Over 150,000 pounds capacity	86.87	135.40
Length Measuring Devices:		
Cordage or fabric	16.56	27.55
Pumps:		
Service Station Dispensers – per		

measuring element	5.09	9.94
High-capacity service station dispensers over 20 gallons per minute – per dispensing element	17.52	29.02
Compressed natural gas – per dispensing element	91.65	142.74
Meters:		
Vehicle tank meters	14.17	23.88
Loading rack meters	31.87	51.03
Liquid petroleum gas meters	40.00	63.50
Liquid fertilizer and herbicide meters	36.65	58.36
Liquid feed meters	36.65	58.36
Cryogenic	53.39	84.04
Mass Flow Metering Systems:		
Mass flow meters (all liquid)	78.26	122.19;
and		

(21) Require persons delinquent under subdivision (20) of this section to pay an administrative fee of twenty-five percent of the annual fees due for each month any such fees are delinquent not to exceed one hundred percent of such fees. Such administrative fees paid shall be in addition to the annual fees due. The purpose of the additional administrative fee is to cover the administrative costs associated with collecting fees. All money collected as an additional administrative fee shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the Weights and Measures Administrative Fund.

Sec. 7. Section 89-187.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

89-187.01 ~~A On and after August 1, 1992,~~ a person shall not operate a weighing and measuring establishment in the State of Nebraska unless such person holds a valid permit from the department. If the permitholder has more than one location with commercial weighing and measuring devices, he or she shall have a permit for each location.

Sec. 8. Section 89-187.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

89-187.02 Application for a permit to operate a weighing and measuring establishment shall be made to the director on forms prescribed and furnished by the department. Such application shall include the full name and mailing address of the applicant; the names and addresses of any partners, members, or corporate officers; the name and address of the person authorized by the applicant to receive notices and orders of the department as provided in the Weights and Measures Act; whether the applicant is an individual, partnership, limited liability company, corporation, or other legal entity; and the location and type of all commercial weighing and measuring devices; ~~and the signature of the applicant.~~ An application for a permit shall be made prior to the operation of a weighing and measuring establishment. The application shall be accompanied by a one-time permit fee of five dollars and the annual device registration and inspection fees required in section 89-187. The full annual device registration and inspection fees are required regardless of when during the year the device is put into operation.

Sec. 9. Original sections 81-2,288.01, 89-186, and 89-187.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 81-2,244.01, 81-2,257, 81-2,270, 89-187, and 89-187.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, are repealed.

Sec. 10. The following section is outright repealed: Section 81-2,243.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018.