STATE OF NEW YORK

11325

IN ASSEMBLY

May 11, 2026

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Stirpe) -- read once and referred to the Committee on Consumer Affairs and Protection

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to enacting the "honesty in cut meat act"

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "honesty in cut meat act".

§ 2. Legislative findings. The legislature finds and declares that:

1. It is the policy of the state of New York to promote fresh quality meat products in grocery stores and to allow customers the chance of making an informed decision between meat that is freshly cut in the store by experienced, knowledgeable butchers and meat which has been pre-cut and pre-packaged by external processors or distributors. Additionally, accurate disclosure of nutritious, fresh cut meat can help to encourage the consumption of such products in a manner that helps to promote the state's meat industries and increase employment in the communities served by a grocery store.

2. The state of New York further finds that in-store meat cutters represent a skilled workforce earning good wages and a family-sustaining livelihood. The presence of this skilled workforce in New York is declining with shifts by grocery stores towards pre-cut, pre-packaged meat. As this continues it exacerbates connected issues of job loss, affordability, and community sustainment. Experienced meat cutters are often among the highest paid positions in a grocery store and removing these positions in favor of meat which has been trucked in from external processors or distributors simultaneously removes a good paying job from New York's communities.

§ 3. The general business law is amended by adding a new section 350-b-2 to read as follows:

§ 350-b-2. Disclosures required in cut meat offered for sale in grocery stores. 1. For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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(a) "Grocery store" shall have the same meaning as such term is defined by section three of the alcoholic beverage control law.

(b) "Meat" means all raw beef, chicken, turkey and pork offered for sale in a grocery store larger than ten thousand square feet.

(c) "Pre-cut, pre-packaged meat" means meat that has been cut and packaged by an external processor before arriving to the grocery store.

(d) "Signage" means a sticker, stamp, sign, notice, placard, post or tag.

(e) "Store-cut meat" means fresh cuts of meat portioned and packaged by grocery store employees on-site.

2. Grocery stores, within their meat and butcher departments, shall display signage that distinguishes between store-cut meat or pre-cut, pre-packaged meat. Such signage shall: (a) be affixed to the shelf or case upon which or in which the meat is displayed to customers; (b) include the date on which the store-cut meat was cut, as applicable; and (c) include a disclosure of whether the meat is store-cut meat or pre-cut, pre-packaged meat.

3. In addition to any civil penalty available under section three hundred fifty-d of this article:

(a) Whenever there shall be a violation of any portion of this section, an application may be made by the attorney general in the name of the people of the state of New York to a court or justice having jurisdiction to issue an injunction against the respondent and upon notice to such respondent of not less than three days, to enjoin and restrain the continuance of such violations; and if it shall appear to the satisfaction of the court or justice that the respondent has, in fact, violated any portion, an injunction may be issued by such court or justice, enjoining and restraining any further violation, without requiring proof that any person has, in fact, been injured or damaged thereby.

(b) Whenever the court shall determine that any individual, grocery store, partnership, corporation, association or firm has violated the provisions of this section, the court may impose a civil penalty of not more than two thousand five hundred dollars for each violation. In connection with any such application, the attorney general is authorized to take proof and make a determination of the relevant facts and to issue subpoenas in accordance with the civil practice law and rules.

(c) In addition to any other remedies provided in this section, any person aggrieved by a violation of this section shall be entitled to bring a private right of action in a court of competent jurisdiction against any individual, grocery store, partnership, corporation, association or firm in violation of this section. Nothing in this section shall in any way limit rights or remedies which are otherwise available under law to the attorney general or any other person authorized to bring an action under this section.

§ 4. This act shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate its purposes. If a court declares any provision or application of this act to be illegal, the remaining provisions shall remain in effect. Courts are hereby authorized to interpret the provisions of this act in a manner that preserves the maximum lawful effect thereof.

§ 5. This act shall take effect immediately.