

CHAPTER 101.

[Sub. H. B. 102.]

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS.

AN ACT relating to the humane slaughter of animals; and providing penalties.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Definitions.

SECTION 1. As used in this act:

"Slaughterer."

(1) The term "slaughterer" means any person, partnership, corporation or association regularly engaged in the slaughter of livestock at a permanent establishment for that purpose.

"Livestock."

(2) The term "livestock" means cattle, horses, swine, sheep and goats.

"Humane methods of slaughter."

(3) The term "humane methods of slaughter" means such methods as will accomplish the slaughter of livestock with a minimum of pain, suffering and discomfort.

Exemption.

SEC. 2. This act shall not apply to the slaughter of livestock according to the requirements of any religious faith.

Administration of act.

SEC. 3. The director of agriculture shall administer the provisions of this act. He shall promulgate and may from time to time revise rules and regulations for the humane slaughter of livestock, which shall conform substantially to the rules and regulations promulgated by the secretary of agriculture of the United States pursuant to the federal humane slaughter law, public law 765, eighty-fifth congress, 72 Stat. 862, as amended: *Provided*, That the use of electricity in such a manner that an animal is rendered unconscious instantly and so remains until death ensues is declared a humane method of slaughter.

Humane method of slaughter.

Inhumane method of slaughter.

SEC. 4. The use of a manually operated hammer or sledge is declared an inhumane method of

slaughter within the provisions of this act and is prohibited, except as otherwise in section 7 of this act provided.

SEC. 5. On and after July 1, 1960, slaughterers shall employ humane methods in the handling of livestock for slaughter and in the slaughter thereof, except as otherwise in section 7 of this act provided. **Effective date.**

SEC. 6. Any slaughterer who violates section 4 of this act or knowingly permits the same to be violated, shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than ninety days, or by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars, or both. **Penalty upon use of manual hammer.**

SEC. 7. If enforcement of this act should work undue hardship on any slaughterer, he may apply to the director of agriculture to be relieved from compliance with such portions of the act as create such hardship. The director shall thereupon inquire into the merits of such application and shall make such decision as the facts shall warrant. No exemption shall be granted to continue for more than one year, but the same may be continued or modified for a further period or periods upon a showing of necessity therefor. Any expense incurred by the director in making his investigation shall be borne by the applicant. An appeal from the decision of the director may be taken, within thirty days from the date the decision was delivered, to the superior court of the state of Washington for Thurston county. **Director may exempt— Procedure.** **Appeal.**

Passed the House February 23, 1959.

Passed the Senate March 4, 1959.

Approved by the Governor March 11, 1959.