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HOUSE BILL 2712

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State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Kretz, Riccelli, Maycumber, Lekanoff, Mosbrucker, Chopp, Walsh, Chapman, Harris, Blake, Dent, Pettigrew, Rude, Springer, and Steele

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring retailers to indicate the country of  
2 origin on beef sold to the public; and adding a new section to  
3 chapter 15.04 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 15.04  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) A retailer who sells beef or offers beef for sale must use a  
8 conspicuous placard that is clearly visible and readily viewable by  
9 the public and placed in the immediate vicinity of the beef to  
10 designate and display the beef as either:

11 (a) "U.S.A. beef" if the beef is derived exclusively from animals  
12 that are either:

13 (i) Born, raised, and slaughtered exclusively in the United  
14 States; or

15 (ii) Born and raised exclusively in the United States and  
16 transported for a period of time not more than sixty days through any  
17 other country and slaughtered in the United States; or

18 (b) "Imported" if the beef does not meet the criteria described  
19 in (a) of this subsection. The placard for imported beef must  
20 indicate each country in which the animal was born, raised, and  
21 slaughtered.

1 (2) The department may adopt rules necessary to implement this  
2 section.

3 (3) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this  
4 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

5 (a) "Beef" means meat from cattle, including veal.

6 (b)(i) "Meat" means the edible part of the muscle of an animal  
7 that is skeletal or that is found in the tongue, diaphragm, heart, or  
8 esophagus, with or without the accompanying or overlying fat, and the  
9 portions of the bone, skin, sinew, nerve, and blood vessels that  
10 normally accompany the muscle tissue and that are not separated from  
11 it in the process of dressing.

12 (ii)(A) "Meat" includes the edible part of the muscle that has  
13 been chopped or ground.

14 (B) "Meat" does not include the muscle found in the lips, snout,  
15 or ears, nor any edible part of the muscle that has been  
16 manufactured, cured, smoked, cooked, or processed.

17 (c) "Retailer" means a person regularly engaged in the business  
18 of selling meat at retail to the public and selling only to the user  
19 or consumer and not for resale.

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