

Legislative Analysis



LABORATORY-GROWN MEAT SUBSTITUTES

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<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4982 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Beau Matthew LaFave
Committee: Agriculture
Complete to 1-25-22

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4982 would amend Chapter VII (Food and Processing Standards) of the Food Law to prohibit a person from labeling or identifying a laboratory-grown meat substitute as *meat*.

The act defines *meat* as the edible part of clean, sound striated muscle of cattle, swine, sheep, deer and other cervids, goat, turkey, duck, ratite, or chicken slaughtered in compliance with all applicable laws, with or without the accompanying and overlying fat, and sinew, nerve, gland, and blood vessels which normally accompany the muscle tissues and which are not separated from it in the process of dressing.¹

Currently under the act, food is required to contain a full label that includes the identification required by the standard, if any, that applies to the food under the act. If no standard applies, the food must be identified by its common or usual name. If there is no common or usual name, it must be identified by a simple and appropriately descriptive name that is not misleading and that accurately identifies or describes the basic nature of the food and its characterizing ingredients or properties. Additionally, if the food contains more than one ingredient, the label must contain an ingredient statement.

MCL 289.7129

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) administers a food licensing and regulatory program under authority of Michigan's Food Law. Part of MDARD's responsibility under the Food Law is inspection of food offered for sale to ensure proper disclosure of ingredients. House Bill 4982 would impose new labeling requirements with respect to a "laboratory-grown meat substitute," a term not defined in the bill. Note that cultured meat products do not fall under the definition of meat in current law and cannot be labeled as meat. The new requirements would not materially alter MDARD's licensing and inspection program and would not result in a material increase in departmental program costs.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

¹ Meat does not include *specified risk materials*, defined as items, associated with the nervous system of beef cattle, that are prohibited from human food as defined in 9 CFR 310.22. <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-9/chapter-III/subchapter-A/part-310/section-310.22>