

Assembly Bill 2909

Small Poultry Producer Protection Act

Assemblymember
Jim Wood



EXISTING LAW

Existing Federal law, under the Poultry Products Inspection Act, exempts poultry producers who process 20,000 birds or less for human consumption from specified inspections and licensing regulations necessary for large-scale production.

BACKGROUND

In the wake of California's farm to fork movement, consumer demand for local, small-farm products has skyrocketed over the last decade. In response, farmers, chefs, food purchasers, and the state of California have sought out pathways to shorten the supply line between producer and consumer in an effort to increase the availability of fresh, locally grown food.

Unfortunately, current state regulations impede access to locally-sourced poultry. The high-cost of acquiring the necessary licenses and compliance measures required for a producer to sell poultry to hotels, restaurants, and retailers creates a regulatory burden that prevents local poultry producers from successfully operating at a small-scale.

A certification process would allow small-scale poultry producers to capture the full retail value of their product, while maintaining strict public health standards.

SOLUTION

The certification program proposed in this bill requires poultry producers to follow sanitary standards, practices, and procedures that ensure poultry products are safe, clean, and fit for human consumption. Through aligning state regulations with the existing, long-standing Federal exemptions this bill supports small-scale producers, increases access to locally-sourced poultry, and decreases the number of miles between farm and fork.

AB 2909 would allow small-scale poultry producers who utilize the 20,000 animals or less federal exemption to be designated as an "approved source" following the CDFA animal welfare and food-safety guidelines.

AB 2909 would create a pathway for small-scale poultry farmers to be considered an "approved source" for sales to hotels, restaurants, retailers, and institutions, if they a) register their operation with CDFA, b) maintain a tracking system so products can be quickly traced back to the source, and c) allow inspections by state environmental health officers if one is requested.

SUPPORT

Roots of Change (Sponsor)

STATUS

Referred to Assembly Agriculture Committee