

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 10 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Barton, Cowan, Gilliam, Krieger, Matthews, Riley, Tomei, Weidner, Wingard, Holvey

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Victoria Cox, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/4, 5/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes Department of Agriculture to impose civil penalties for food safety violations and to adopt rules to implement civil penalty schedule. Provides for penalties not to exceed \$10,000 for each violation. Clarifies penalty classification and reorganizes penalty provisions under relevant statutory sections. Amends statutory provision related to livestock inspection violation to resolve statutory conflict. Makes violation of livestock inspection statute or related rule Class A misdemeanor.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Lack of civil penalty provisions in food safety laws
- Difficulty of enforcement through criminal justice system
- Support of grocers and dairy farmers
- Tools to achieve compliance
- Facilities with multiple licensees

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Since violation of food safety laws are not currently subject to civil penalty, the Food Safety Division of the Department of Agriculture must use the criminal justice system to address violations. SB 188-A provides for the imposition of civil penalties for violation of food safety laws.