



# SB 809: Oregon State Meat Inspection of Poultry Products

## Executive Summary

SB 809 aims to close a statutory gap in Oregon's meat inspection program by including poultry products under state inspection authority. Currently, Oregon's cooperative agreement with the USDA, established in 2022, excludes poultry because the necessary statutory authorization is missing. By amending ORS 619.042, this legislative concept allows the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to inspect poultry products, aligning both state and federal inspection standards. This initiative supports local poultry processors, enhances food safety, and strengthens Oregon's food system resilience.

## Problem Statement

During the COVID-19 pandemic and the national disruptions in meat processing, the Oregon Legislature authorized a state-level meat inspection program in partnership with the USDA. However, poultry products were excluded from the state's authority due to a lack of statutory authorization, leaving processors fully dependent on federal inspections. This dependence creates significant bottlenecks, particularly during times of crisis or federal delays. Without amending the existing statutes, Oregon's State Meat Inspection Program remains incomplete, and this addition provide a complete program for years to come.

## Proposed Solution

SB 809 amends ORS 619.042 to explicitly authorize the inspection of poultry products within Oregon's State Meat Inspection Program. Specifically, the amendment: adds "poultry products" to references of "meat products" in subsections (2), (3), and (6) of ORS 619.042; ensures the state's poultry inspection program meets federal standards as required by the Poultry Products Inspection Act and other relevant federal legislation, including the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Humane Methods of Livestock Slaughter Act; and provides ODA the authority to license and regulate establishments processing poultry products, providing regulatory parity with other meat processors in Oregon.

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## Key Points

- 1 Inclusion of Poultry:** This concept adds poultry products to Oregon's State Meat Inspection Program, broadening the scope to include all major categories of meat and aligning the state's inspection standards with federal requirements.
- 2 Expansion of State Authority:** Authorizing ODA to fully utilize the meat inspection program will allow poultry processors access to state inspection, thus providing a more streamlined and predictable inspection process.
- 3 Economic Benefit:** Expanding the inspection program to include poultry will strengthen local food systems by encouraging local production.

## Budgetary Context

The proposed legislative concept leverages the existing infrastructure of Oregon's State Meat Inspection Program to include poultry products. No additional fees, assessments, or significant fiscal impacts are required. The program will operate with current resources to implement the change effectively.

**Total Budget for State Meat Inspection Program:  
\$1.92 million**

- **General Funds: \$1.11 million**
- **Federal Funds: \$802,000**
- **FTE Supported: 3**

