160.9	ARTICLE 11
160.10	SAFE WORKPLACES FOR MEAT AND POULTRY PROCESSING WORKERS
160.11	Section 1. [179.87] TITLE.
160.12 160.13	Sections 179.87 to 179.8757 may be titled the "Safe Workplaces for Meat and Poultry Processing Workers Act."
160.14	Sec. 2. [179.871] DEFINITIONS.
160.15 160.16	Subdivision 1. <b>Definitions.</b> For purposes of sections 179.87 to 179.8757, the terms in this section have the meanings given.
160.17 160.18	Subd. 2. Authorized employee representative. "Authorized employee representative" has the meaning given in section 182.651, subdivision 22.
160.19 160.20	Subd. 3. Commissioner. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of labor and industry or the commissioner's designee.
160.21 160.22	Subd. 4. Coordinator. "Coordinator" means the meatpacking industry worker rights coordinator or the coordinator's designee.
160.25 160.26 160.27 160.28 160.29	Subd. 5. Meat-processing worker. "Meat-processing worker" or "worker" means any individual who a meat-processing employer suffers or permits to work directly in contact with raw meatpacking products in a meatpacking operation, including independent contractors and persons performing work for an employer through a temporary service or staffing agency. Workers in a meatpacking operation who inspect or package meatpacking products and workers who clean, maintain, or sanitize equipment or surfaces are included in the definition of a meat-processing worker. Meat-processing worker does not include a federal, state, or local government inspector.
161.1 161.2 161.3 161.4 161.5 161.6 161.7	Subd. 6. Meatpacking operation. "Meatpacking operation" or "meat-processing employer" means a meatpacking or poultry processing site with 100 or more employees in Minnesota and a North American Industrial Classification system (NAICS) code of 311611 to 311615, excluding NAICS code 311613. Meatpacking operation or meat-processing employer does not mean a grocery store, butcher shop, meat market, deli, restaurant, or other business preparing meatpacking products for immediate consumption or for sale in a retail establishment or otherwise directly to an end-consumer.
161.8 161.9 161.10	Subd. 7. Meatpacking products. "Meatpacking products" means meat food products and poultry food products as defined in section 31A.02, subdivision 10. Sec. 3. [179.8715] WORKER RIGHTS COORDINATOR.
161.11 161.12	(a) The commissioner must appoint a meatpacking industry worker rights coordinator in the Department of Labor and Industry and provide the coordinator with necessary office

161.13 space, furniture, equipment, supplies, and assistance.

169.24	ARTICLE 13
169.25	MEAT AND POULTRY PROCESSING
169.26	Section 1. [179.87] TITLE.
169.27 169.28	Sections 179.87 to 179.8757 may be titled the "Safe Workplaces for Meat and Poultry Processing Workers Act."
170.1	Sec. 2. [179.871] DEFINITIONS.
170.2 170.3	Subdivision 1. <b>Definitions.</b> For purposes of sections 179.87 to 179.8757, the terms in this section have the meanings given.
170.4 170.5	Subd. 2. Authorized employee representative. "Authorized employee representative" has the meaning given in section 182.651, subdivision 22.
170.6 170.7	Subd. 3. Commissioner. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of labor and industry or the commissioner's designee.
170.8 170.9	Subd. 4. Coordinator. "Coordinator" means the meatpacking industry worker rights coordinator or the coordinator's designee.
170.15	Subd. 5. <u>Meat-processing worker.</u> "Meat-processing worker" or "worker" means any individual who a meat-processing employer suffers or permits to work directly in contact with raw meatpacking products in a meatpacking operation, including independent contractors and persons performing work for an employer through a temporary service or staffing agency. Workers in a meatpacking operation who inspect or package meatpacking products and workers who clean, maintain, or sanitize equipment or surfaces are included in the definition of a meat-processing worker.
170.17 170.18 170.19 170.20 170.21 170.22	Subd. 6. Meatpacking operation. "Meatpacking operation" or "meat-processing employer" means a meatpacking or poultry processing site with 100 or more employees in Minnesota and a North American Industrial Classification system code of 311611 to 311615, except 311613. Meatpacking operation or meat-processing employer does not mean a grocery store, deli, restaurant, or other business preparing meatpacking products for immediate consumption.
170.23 170.24 170.25	Subd. 7. Meatpacking products. "Meatpacking products" means meat food products and poultry food products as defined in section 31A.02, subdivision 10. Sec. 3. [179.8715] WORKER RIGHTS COORDINATOR.
170.26	(a) The commissioner must appoint a meatpacking industry worker rights coordinator

- 170.26(a) The commissioner must appoint a meatpacking industry worker rights coordinator170.27in the Department of Labor and Industry and provide the coordinator with necessary office170.28space, furniture, equipment, supplies, and assistance.

## 161.14 (b) The commissioner must enforce sections 179.87 to 179.8757, including inspecting,

- 161.15 reviewing, and recommending improvements to the practices and procedures of meatpacking
- 161.16 operations in Minnesota. A meat-processing employer must grant the commissioner full
- 161.17 access to all meatpacking operations in this state at any time that meatpacking products are
- 161.18 being processed or meat-processing workers are on the job.

161.19 (c) No later than December 1 each year, beginning December 1, 2024, the coordinator

- 161.20 must submit a report to the governor and the chairs and ranking minority members of the
- 161.21 legislative committees with jurisdiction over labor. The report must include recommendations
- 161.22 to promote better treatment of meat-processing workers. The coordinator shall also post the
- 161.23 report on the Department of Labor and Industry's website.

## 161.24 Sec. 4. [179.872] REFUSAL TO WORK UNDER DANGEROUS CONDITIONS.

- 161.25 A meat-processing worker has the right to refuse to work under dangerous conditions
- 161.26 in accordance with section 182.654, subdivision 11. Pursuant to section 182.654, subdivision
- 161.27 11, the worker shall continue to receive pay and shall not be subject to discrimination.
- 161.28 Sec. 5. [179.875] ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE.
- 161.29 Subdivision 1. Administrative enforcement. The commissioner, either on the
- 161.30 commissioner's initiative or in response to a complaint, may inspect a meatpacking operation
- 161.31 and subpoena records and witnesses as provided in sections 175.20, 177.27, and 182.659.
- 162.1 If a meat-processing employer does not comply with the commissioner's inspection, the
- 162.2 commissioner may seek relief as provided in this section or chapter 175 or 182.
- 162.3 Subd. 2. Compliance authority. The commissioner may issue a compliance order under
- 162.4 section 177.27, subdivision 4, requiring an employer to comply with sections 179.8755,
- 162.5 paragraphs (b) and (c); 179.8756, subdivisions 1 to 3 and 4, paragraphs (f) and (g); and
- 162.6 179.8757. The commissioner also has authority, pursuant to section 182.662, subdivision
- 162.7 1, to issue a stop work or business closure order when there is a condition or practice that
- 162.8 could result in death or serious physical harm.
- 162.9 Subd. 3. Private civil action. If a meat-processing employer does not comply with a
- 162.10 provision in sections 179.87 to 179.8757, an aggrieved worker, authorized employee
- 162.11 representative, or other person may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction
- 162.12 within three years of an alleged violation and, upon prevailing, must be awarded the relief
- 162.13 provided in this section. Pursuing administrative relief is not a prerequisite for bringing a
- 162.14 civil action.
- 162.15 Subd. 4. Other government enforcement. The attorney general may enforce sections
- 162.16 <u>179.87 to 179.8757 under section 8.31. A city or county attorney may also enforce these</u>
- 162.17 sections. Such law enforcement agencies may inspect meatpacking operations and subpoena
- 162.18 records and witnesses and, where such agencies determine that a violation has occurred,
- 162.19 may bring a civil action as provided in this section.

170.29 170.30 170.31 171.1 171.2	(b) The commissioner must enforce sections 179.87 to 179.8757, including inspecting, reviewing, and recommending improvements to the practices and procedures of meatpacking operations in Minnesota. A meat-processing employer must grant the commissioner full access to all meatpacking operations in this state at any time that meatpacking products are being processed or meat-processing workers are on the job.
171.3 171.4 171.5 171.6 171.7	(c) No later than December 1 each year, beginning December 1, 2024, the coordinator must submit a report to the governor and the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over labor. The report must include recommendations to promote better treatment of meat-processing workers. The coordinator shall also post the report on the Department of Labor and Industry's website.
171.8	Sec. 4. [179.872] REFUSAL TO WORK UNDER DANGEROUS CONDITIONS.
171.9 171.10 171.11	A meat-processing worker has the right to refuse to work under dangerous conditions in accordance with section 182.654, subdivision 11. Pursuant to section 182.654, subdivision 11, the worker shall continue to receive pay and shall not be subject to discrimination.
171.12	Sec. 5. [179.875] ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE.
171.13 171.14 171.15 171.16	<u>Subdivision 1.</u> <u>Administrative enforcement.</u> The commissioner, either on the commissioner's initiative or in response to a complaint, may inspect a meatpacking operation and subpoena records and witnesses as provided in sections 175.20, 177.27, and 182.659. If a meat-processing employer does not comply with the commissioner's inspection, the
	commissioner may seek relief as provided in this section or chapter 175 or 182.
171.18 171.19 171.20 171.21 171.22 171.23	Subd. 2. <b>Compliance authority.</b> The commissioner may issue a compliance order under section 177.27, subdivision 4, requiring an employer to comply with sections 179.8755, paragraphs (b) and (c); 179.8756, subdivisions 1 to 3 and 4, paragraphs (f) and (g); and 179.8757. The commissioner also has authority, pursuant to section 182.662, subdivision 1, to issue a stop-work or business-closure order when there is a condition or practice that could result in death or serious physical harm.
171.26 171.27 171.28	Subd. 3. <b>Private civil action.</b> If a meat-processing employer does not comply with a provision in sections 179.87 to 179.8757, an aggrieved worker, authorized employee representative, or other person may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction within three years of an alleged violation and, upon prevailing, must be awarded the relief provided in this section. Pursuing administrative relief is not a prerequisite for bringing a civil action.
171.30 171.31 171.32	Subd. 4. Other government enforcement. The attorney general may enforce sections 179.87 to 179.8757 under section 8.31. A city or county attorney may also enforce these sections. Such law enforcement agencies may inspect meatpacking operations and subpoena

- 172.1 records and witnesses and, where such agencies determine that a violation has occurred,
- 172.2 may bring a civil action as provided in this section.

162.20 162.21 162.22	Subd. 5. <b>Relief.</b> (a) In a civil action or administrative proceeding brought to enforce sections 179.87 to 179.8757, the court or commissioner must order relief as provided in this subdivision.
162.23	(b) For any violation of sections 179.87 to 179.8757:
162.24	(1) an injunction to order compliance and restrain continued violations;
162.25 162.26	(2) payment to a prevailing worker by a meat-processing employer of reasonable costs, disbursements, and attorney fees; and
162.27 162.28	(3) a civil penalty payable to the state of not less than \$100 per day per worker affected by the meat-processing employer's noncompliance with sections 179.87 to 179.8757.
162.29 162.30 162.31	(c) Any worker who brings a complaint under sections 179.87 to 179.8757 and suffers retaliation is entitled to treble damages in addition to lost pay and recovery of attorney fees and costs.
163.1 163.2 163.3	(d) Any company who is found to have retaliated against a meat-processing worker must pay a fine of up to \$10,000 to the commissioner, in addition to other penalties available under law.
163.4 163.5 163.6 163.7	Subd. 6. Whistleblower enforcement; penalty distribution. (a) The relief provided in this section may be recovered through a private civil action brought on behalf of the commissioner in a court of competent jurisdiction by another individual, including an authorized employee representative, pursuant to this subdivision.
163.8 163.9 163.10 163.11	(b) The individual must give written notice to the coordinator of the specific provision or provisions of sections 179.87 to 179.8757 alleged to have been violated. The individual or representative organization may commence a civil action under this subdivision if no enforcement action is taken by the commissioner within 30 days.
163.12	(c) Civil penalties recovered pursuant to this subdivision must be distributed as follows:
163.13	(1) 70 percent to the commissioner for enforcement of sections 179.87 to 179.8757; and
163.14	(2) 30 percent to the individual or authorized employee representative.
163.15 163.16 163.17	(d) The right to bring an action under this subdivision shall not be impaired by private contract. A public enforcement action must be tried promptly, without regard to concurrent adjudication of a private claim for the same alleged violation.
163.18 163.19	Sec. 6. [179.8755] RETALIATION AGAINST EMPLOYEES AND WHISTLEBLOWERS PROHIBITED.
163.20	(a) Pursuant to section 182.669, no meat-processing employer or other person may

163.17	adjudication of a private claim for the same alleged violation.	172.31	adjudicat
163.18	Sec. 6. [179.8755] RETALIATION AGAINST EMPLOYEES AND	173.1	Sec. 6.
163.19	WHISTLEBLOWERS PROHIBITED.	173.2	WHISTI
163.20	(a) Pursuant to section 182.669, no meat-processing employer or other person may discharge or discriminate against a worker because the employee has raised a concern about	173.3	<u>(a) I</u>
163.21		173.4	discharge

172.3	Subd. 5. Relief. (a) In a civil action or administrative proceeding brought to enforce
172.4	sections 179.87 to 179.8757, the court or commissioner must order relief as provided in this
172.5	subdivision.
172.6	(b) For any violation of sections 179.87 to 179.8757:
172.7	(1) an injunction to order compliance and restrain continued violations;
172.8 172.9	(2) payment to a prevailing worker by a meat-processing employer of reasonable costs, disbursements, and attorney fees; and
172.10 172.11	(3) a civil penalty payable to the state of not less than \$100 per day per worker affected by the meat-processing employer's noncompliance with sections 179.87 to 179.8757.
172.12	(c) Any worker who brings a complaint under sections 179.87 to 179.8757 and suffers
172.13	retaliation is entitled to treble damages in addition to lost pay and recovery of attorney fees
172.14	and costs.
1/2.14	
172.15	(d) Any company who is found to have retaliated against a meat-processing worker must
172.16	pay a fine of up to \$10,000 to the commissioner, in addition to other penalties available
172.17	under the law.
172.18	Subd. 6. Whistleblower enforcement; penalty distribution. (a) The relief provided in
172.18	this section may be recovered through a private civil action brought on behalf of the
172.20	commissioner in a court of competent jurisdiction by another individual, including an
172.20	authorized employee representative, pursuant to this subdivision.
1/2.21	autionzed employee representative, pursuant to this subdivision.
172.22	(b) The individual must give written notice to the coordinator of the specific provision
172.23	or provisions of sections 179.87 to 179.8757 alleged to have been violated. The individual
172.24	or representative organization may commence a civil action under this subdivision if no
172.25	enforcement action is taken by the commissioner within 30 days.
172.26	(c) Civil penalties recovered pursuant to this subdivision must be distributed as follows:
172.27	(1) 70 percent to the commissioner for enforcement of sections 179.87 to 179.8757; and
172.28	(2) 30 percent to the individual or authorized employee representative.
172.29	(d) The right to bring an action under this subdivision shall not be impaired by private
172.30	contract. A public enforcement action must be tried promptly, without regard to concurrent
172.31	adjudication of a private claim for the same alleged violation.
173.1	Sec. 6. [179.8755] RETALIATION AGAINST EMPLOYEES AND
173.2	WHISTLEBLOWERS PROHIBITED.
173.3	(a) Pursuant to section 182.669, no meat-processing employer or other person may
173.4	discharge or discriminate against a worker because the worker has raised a concern about

## 163.22 a meatpacking operation's health and safety practices to the employer or otherwise exercised

- 163.23 any right authorized under sections 182.65 to 182.674.
- 163.24 (b) No meat-processing employer or other person may attempt to require any worker to
- 163.25 sign a contract or other agreement that would limit or prevent the worker from disclosing
- 163.26 information about workplace health and safety practices or hazards, or to otherwise abide
- 163.27 by a workplace policy that would limit or prevent such disclosures. Any such agreements
- 163.28 or policies are hereby void and unenforceable as contrary to the public policy of this state.
- 163.29 An employer's attempt to impose such a contract, agreement, or policy shall constitute an
- 163.30 adverse action enforceable under section 179.875.
- 163.31 (c) Reporting or threatening to report a meat-processing worker's suspected citizenship
- 163.32 or immigration status, or the suspected citizenship or immigration status of a family member
- 164.1 of the worker, to a federal, state, or local agency because the worker exercises a right under
- 164.2 sections 179.87 to 179.8757 constitutes an adverse action for purposes of establishing a
- 164.3 violation of that worker's rights. For purposes of this paragraph, "family member" means a
- 164.4 spouse, parent, sibling, child, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, cousin, grandparent, or grandchild
- 164.5 related by blood, adoption, marriage, or domestic partnership.
- 164.6 Sec. 7. [179.8756] MEATPACKING WORKER CHRONIC INJURIES AND
  164.7 WORKPLACE SAFETY.
- 164.8 Subdivision 1. Facility committee. (a) The meat-processing employer's ergonomics
- 164.9 program under section 182.677, subdivision 2, must be developed and implemented by a
- 164.10 committee of individuals who are knowledgeable of the tasks and work processes performed
- 164.11 by workers at the employer's facility. The committee must include:
- 164.12 (1) a certified professional ergonomist;
- 164.13 (2) a licensed, board-certified physician, with preference given to a physician who has
- 164.14 specialized experience and training in occupational medicine; and
- 164.15 (3) at least three workers employed in the employer's facility who have completed a
- 164.16 general industry outreach course approved by the commissioner, one of whom must be an
- 164.17 authorized employee representative if the employer is party to a collective bargaining
- 164.18 agreement.
- 164.19 (b) If it is not practicable for a certified professional ergonomist or a licensed,
- 164.20 board-certified physician to be a member of the committee required by paragraph (b), the
- 164.21 meatpacking employer must have their ergonomics program reviewed by a certified
- 164.22 professional ergonomist and a licensed, board-certified physician prior to implementation
- 164.23 of the program and annually thereafter.
- 164.24 Subd. 2. New task and annual safety training. (a) Meat-processing employers must
- 164.25 provide every worker who is assigned a new task if the worker has no previous work
- 164.26 experience with training on how to safely perform the task, the ergonomic and other hazards
- 164.27 associated with the task, and training on the early signs and symptoms of musculoskeletal

- 173.5 a meatpacking operation's health and safety practices to the employer or otherwise exercised any right authorized under sections 182.65 to 182.674. 173.6 (b) No meat-processing employer or other person may attempt to require any worker to 173.7 173.8 sign a contract or other agreement that would limit or prevent the worker from disclosing 173.9 information about workplace health and safety practices or hazards, or to otherwise abide 173.10 by a workplace policy that would limit or prevent such disclosures. Any such agreements 173.11 or policies are hereby void and unenforceable as contrary to the public policy of this state. 173.12 An employer's attempt to impose such a contract, agreement, or policy shall constitute an 173.13 adverse action enforceable under section 179.875. 173.14 (c) Reporting or threatening to report a meat-processing worker's suspected citizenship 173.15 or immigration status, or the suspected citizenship or immigration status of a family member 173.16 of the worker, to a federal, state, or local agency because the worker exercises a right under 173.17 sections 179.87 to 179.8757 constitutes an adverse action for purposes of establishing a 173.18 violation of that worker's rights. For purposes of this paragraph, "family member" means a 173.19 spouse, parent, sibling, child, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, cousin, grandparent, or grandchild 173.20 related by blood, adoption, marriage, or domestic partnership. 173.21 Sec. 7. [179.8756] MEATPACKING WORKER CHRONIC INJURIES AND 173.22 WORKPLACE SAFETY. Subdivision 1. Facility committee. (a) The meat-processing employer's ergonomics 173.23 173.24 program under section 182.677, subdivision 2, must be developed and implemented by a 173.25 committee of individuals who are knowledgeable of the tasks and work processes performed 173.26 by workers at the employer's facility. The committee must include: (1) a certified professional ergonomist; 173.27 173.28 (2) a licensed, board-certified physician, with preference given to a physician who has 173.29 specialized experience and training in occupational medicine; and (3) at least three workers employed in the employer's facility who have completed a 173.30 173.31 general industry outreach course approved by the commissioner, one of whom must be an 173.32 authorized employee representative if the employer is party to a collective bargaining 173.33 agreement. 174.1 (b) If it is not practicable for a certified professional ergonomist or a licensed, board-certified physician to be a member of the committee required by paragraph (a), the 174.2 meatpacking employer must have their safe-worker program reviewed by a certified 174.3 professional ergonomist and a licensed, board-certified physician prior to implementation 174.4 of the program and annually thereafter. 174.5 Subd. 2. New task and annual safety training. (a) Meat-processing employers must 174.6 provide every worker who is assigned a new task if the worker has no previous work 174.7
- for the every worker who is assigned a new task if the worker has no previous work
- 174.8 experience with training on how to safely perform the task, the ergonomic and other hazards
- associated with the task, and training on the early signs and symptoms of musculoskeletal

a nonporous barrier separates the workers. An employer may accomplish such distancing

165.31

- 164.28 injuries and the procedures for reporting them. The employer must give a worker an 174.10 injuries and the procedures for reporting them. The employer must give a worker an 164.29 opportunity within 30 days of receiving the new task training to receive refresher training 174.11 opportunity within 30 days of receiving the new task training to receive refresher training 164.30 on the topics covered in the new task training. The employer must provide this training in 174.12 on the topics covered in the new task training. The employer must provide this training in a language and with vocabulary that the employee can understand. 164.31 174.13 a language and with vocabulary that the employee can understand. (b) Meat-processing employers must provide each worker with no less than eight hours (b) Meat-processing employers must provide each worker with no less than eight hours 164.32 174.14 of safety training each year. This annual training must address health and safety topics that 174.15 of safety training each year. This annual training must address health and safety topics that 164.33 165.1 are relevant to the establishment and the worker's job assignment, such as cuts, lacerations, 174.16 are relevant to the establishment and the worker's job assignment, such as cuts, lacerations, amputations, machine guarding, biological hazards, lockout/tagout, hazard communication, amputations, machine guarding, biological hazards, lockout/tagout, hazard communication, 165.2 174.17 ergonomic hazards, and personal protective equipment. At least two of the eight hours of 174.18 ergonomic hazards, and personal protective equipment. At least two of the eight hours of 165.3 165.4 annual training must be on topics related to the facility's ergonomic injury prevention 174.19 annual training must be on topics related to the facility's ergonomic injury prevention program, including the assessment of surveillance data, the ergonomic hazard prevention 174.20 program, including the assessment of surveillance data, the ergonomic hazard prevention 165.5 and control plan, and the early signs and symptoms of musculoskeletal disorders and the 174.21 and control plan, and the early signs and symptoms of musculoskeletal disorders and the 165.6 procedures for reporting them. The employer must provide this training in a language and 174.22 procedures for reporting them. The employer must provide this training in a language and 165.7 with vocabulary that the employee can understand. 174.23 with vocabulary that the employee can understand. 165.8 165.9 Subd. 3. Medical services and qualifications. (a) Meat-processing employers must 174.24 Subd. 3. Medical services and qualifications. (a) Meat-processing employers must 174.25 ensure that: 165.10 ensure that: 165.11 (1) all first-aid providers, medical assistants, nurses, and physicians engaged by the 174.26 (1) all first-aid providers, medical assistants, nurses, and physicians engaged by the employer are licensed and perform their duties within the scope of their licensed practice; 174.27 employer are licensed and perform their duties within the scope of their licensed practice; 165.12 (2) medical management of musculoskeletal disorders is under direct supervision of a (2) medical management of musculoskeletal disorders is under direct supervision of a 165.13 174.28 165.14 licensed physician specializing in occupational medicine who will advise on best practices 174.29 licensed physician specializing in occupational medicine who will advise on best practices for management and prevention of work-related musculoskeletal disorders; and 174.30 for management and prevention of work-related musculoskeletal disorders; and 165.15 165.16 (3) medical management of musculoskeletal injuries follows the most current version 174.31 (3) medical management of musculoskeletal injuries follows the most current version of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine practice guidelines. 174.32 of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine practice guidelines. 165.17 (b) The coordinator may compile, analyze, and publish annually, either in summary or (b) The coordinator may compile, analyze, and publish annually, either in summary or 165.18 174.33 165.19 detailed form, all reports or information obtained under sections 179.87 to 179.8757, 174.34 detailed form, all reports or information obtained under sections 179.87 to 179.8757, including information about ergonomics programs, and may cooperate with the United including information about ergonomics programs, and may cooperate with the United 165.20 175.1 States Department of Labor in obtaining national summaries of occupational deaths, injuries, States Department of Labor in obtaining national summaries of occupational deaths, injuries, 165.21 175.2 165.22 and illnesses. The coordinator and authorized employee representative must preserve the 175.3 and illnesses. The coordinator and authorized employee representative must preserve the 165.23 anonymity of each employee with respect to whom medical reports or information is obtained. 175.4 anonymity of each employee with respect to whom medical reports or information is obtained. (c) Meat-processing employers must not institute or maintain any program, policy, or 165.24 practice that discourages employees from reporting injuries, hazards, or safety standard 165.25 violations, unless the employee authorizes employee's information be shared. 165.26 165.27 Subd. 4. Pandemic protections. (a) This subdivision applies during a public health 175.5 Subd. 4. Pandemic protections. (a) This subdivision applies during a peacetime public 175.6 health emergency declared under section 12.31, subdivision 2, that involves airborne 165.28 emergency that involves airborne transmission. 175.7 transmission. 165.29 (b) Meat-processing employers must maintain a radius of space around and between 175.8 (b) Meat-processing employers must maintain at least a six-foot radius of space around each worker according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines unless 165.30
  - and between each worker unless a nonporous barrier separates the workers. An employer 175.9
  - 175.10 may accomplish such distancing by increasing physical space between workstations, slowing

- 165.32 by increasing physical space between workstations, slowing production speeds, staggering 175.11 production speeds, staggering shifts and breaks, adjusting shift size, or a combination thereof. 165.33 shifts and breaks, adjusting shift size, or a combination thereof. The employer must 175.12 The employer must reconfigure common or congregate spaces to allow for such distancing, reconfigure common or congregate spaces to allow for such distancing, including lunch 175.13 including lunch rooms, break rooms, and locker rooms. The employer must reinforce social 166.1 rooms, break rooms, and locker rooms. The employer must reinforce social distancing by 175.14 distancing by allowing workers to maintain six feet of distance along with the use of 166.2 allowing workers to maintain six feet of distance along with the use of nonporous barriers. 166.3 175.15 nonporous barriers. 166.4 (c) Meat-processing employers must provide employees with face masks and must make 175.16 (c) Meat-processing employers must provide employees with face masks and must make face shields available on request. Face masks, including replacement face masks, and face 175.17 face shields available on request. Face masks, including replacement face masks, and face 166.5 175.18 shields must be provided at no cost to the employee. All persons present at the meatpacking shields must be provided at no cost to the employee. All persons present at the meatpacking 166.6 operation must wear face masks in the facility except in those parts of the facility where 175.19 operation must wear face masks in the facility except in those parts of the facility where 166.7 infection risk is low because workers work in isolation. 175.20 infection risk is low because workers work in isolation. 166.8 166.9 (d) Meat-processing employers must provide all meat-processing workers with the ability (d) Meat-processing employers must provide all meat-processing workers with the ability 175.21 166.10 to frequently and routinely sanitize their hands with either hand-washing or hand-sanitizing 175.22 to frequently and routinely sanitize their hands with either hand-washing or hand-sanitizing stations. The employer must ensure that restrooms have running hot and cold water and 175.23 stations. The employer must ensure that restrooms have running hot and cold water and 166.11 paper towels and are in sanitary condition. The employer must provide gloves to those who 175.24 paper towels and are in sanitary condition. The employer must provide gloves to those who 166.12 166.13 request them. 175.25 request them. 166.14 (e) Meat-processing employers must clean and regularly disinfect all frequently touched (e) Meat-processing employers must clean and regularly disinfect all frequently touched 175.26 surfaces in the workplace, such as workstations, training rooms, machinery controls, tools, 175.27 surfaces in the workplace, such as workstations, training rooms, machinery controls, tools, 166.15 protective garments, eating surfaces, bathrooms, showers, and other similar areas. Employers 175.28 protective garments, eating surfaces, bathrooms, showers, and other similar areas. Employers 166.16 must install and maintain ventilation systems that ensure unidirectional air flow, outdoor 175.29 must install and maintain ventilation systems that ensure unidirectional air flow, outdoor 166.17 air, and filtration in both production areas and common areas such as cafeterias and locker 175.30 air, and filtration in both production areas and common areas such as cafeterias and locker 166.18 166.19 rooms. 175.31 rooms. 166.20 (f) Meat-processing employers must disseminate all required communications, notices, 175.32 (f) Meat-processing employers must disseminate all required communications, notices, and any published materials regarding these protections in English, Spanish, and other 175.33 and any published materials regarding these protections in English, Spanish, and other 166.21 languages as required for employees to understand the communication. languages as required for employees to understand the communication. 166.22 175.34 166.23 (g) Consistent with sections 177.253 and 177.254, meat-processing employers must (g) Consistent with sections 177.253 and 177.254, meat-processing employers must 176.1 provide adequate break time for workers to use the bathroom, wash their hands, and don 166.24 provide adequate break time for workers to use the bathroom, wash their hands, and don 176.2 and doff protective equipment. Nothing in this section relieves an employer of its obligation and doff protective equipment. Nothing in this subdivision relieves an employer of its 166.25 176.3 to comply with federal and state wage and hour laws. obligation to comply with federal and state wage and hour laws. 166.26 176.4 166.27 (h) Meat-processing employers must provide sufficient personal protective equipment 176.5 (h) Meat-processing employers must provide sufficient personal protective equipment 166.28 for each employee for each shift, plus replacements, at no cost to the employee. for each employee for each shift, plus replacements, at no cost to the employee. 176.6 Meat-processing employers must provide training in proper use of personal protective Meat-processing employers must provide training in proper use of personal protective 166.29 176.7 166.30 equipment, safety procedures, and sanitation. 176.8 equipment, safety procedures, and sanitation. (i) Meat-processing employers must record all injuries and illnesses in the facility and (i) Meat-processing employers must record all injuries and illnesses in the facility and 166.31 176.9 make these records available upon request to the health and safety committee. The name, 176.10 make these records available upon request to the health and safety committee. The name, 166.32 166.33 contact information, and occupation of an employee, and any other information that would 176.11 contact information, and occupation of an employee, and any other information that would reveal the identity of an employee, must be removed. The redacted records must only include, 176.12 reveal the identity of an employee, must be removed. The redacted records must only include, 166.34 to the extent it would not reveal the identity of an employee, the location where the employee 176.13 to the extent it would not reveal the identity of an employee, the location where the employee 167.1 worked, the date of the injury or visit, a description of the medical treatment or first aid 176.14 worked, the date of the injury or visit, a description of the medical treatment or first aid 167.2 provided, and a description of the injury suffered. The employer also must make its records 167.3
  - 176.15 provided, and a description of the injury suffered. The employer also must make its records

- 167.4 available to the commissioner, and where there is a collective bargaining agreement, to the
- 167.5 authorized bargaining representative.
- 167.6 (j) Except for paragraphs (f) and (g), this section shall be enforced by the commissioner
- 167.7 under sections 182.66 and 182.661. A violation of this section is subject to the penalties
- 167.8 provided under section 182.666. Paragraphs (f) and (g) are enforceable by the commissioner
- 167.9 as described in section 179.875, subdivision 2.
- 167.10 (k) This subdivision may also be enforced as described in section 179.875, subdivisions 167.11 3 to 6.

## 167.12 Sec. 8. [179.8757] NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.

- 167.13 (a) Meat-processing employers must provide written information and notifications about
- 167.14 employee rights under section 179.86 and sections 179.87 to 179.8757 to workers in their
- 167.15 language of fluency at least annually. If a worker is unable to understand written information
- 167.16 and notifications, the employer must provide such information and notices orally in the
- 167.17 worker's language of fluency.
- 167.18 (b) The coordinator must notify covered employers of the provisions of sections 179.87 167.19 to 179.8757 and any recent updates at least annually.
- 167.20 (c) The coordinator must place information explaining sections 179.87 to 179.8757 on
- 167.21 the Department of Labor and Industry's website in at least English, Spanish, and any other
- 167.22 language that at least ten percent of meat-processing workers communicate in fluently. The
- 167.23 coordinator must also make the information accessible to persons with impaired visual
- 167.24 <u>acuity.</u>

167.25 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 182.654, subdivision 11, is amended to read:

- 167.26 Subd. 11. **Refusal to work under dangerous conditions.** An employee acting in good 167.27 faith has the right to refuse to work under conditions which the employee reasonably believes 167.28 present an imminent danger of death or serious physical harm to the employee.
- 167.29 A reasonable belief of imminent danger of death or serious physical harm includes but 167.30 is not limited to a reasonable belief of the employee that the employee has been assigned 167.31 to work in an unsafe or unhealthful manner with a hazardous substance, harmful physical
- 167.32 agent or infectious agent.
- 168.1 An employer may not discriminate against an employee for a good faith refusal to
- 168.2 perform assigned tasks if the employee has requested that the employer correct the hazardous
- 168.3 conditions but the conditions remain uncorrected.

	available to the commissioner, and where there is a collective bargaining agreement, to the authorized bargaining representative.
176.20	(j) Except for paragraphs (f) and (g), this subdivision shall be enforced by the commissioner under sections 182.66 and 182.661. A violation of this subdivision is subject to the penalties provided under section 182.666. Paragraphs (f) and (g) are enforceable by the commissioner as described in section 179.875, subdivision 2.
176.22 176.23	(k) The entirety of this subdivision may also be enforced as described in section 179.875, subdivisions 3 to 6.
176.24 176.25	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE.</b> This section is effective November 1, 2023, except subdivision 4, which is effective July 1, 2023.
176.26	Sec. 8. [179.8757] NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.
176.27 176.28 176.29 176.30 176.31	(a) Meat-processing employers must provide written information and notifications about employee rights under section 179.86 and sections 179.87 to 179.8757 to workers in their language of fluency at least annually. If a worker is unable to understand written information and notifications, the employer must provide such information and notices orally in the worker's language of fluency.
176.32 176.33	(b) The coordinator must notify covered employers of the provisions of sections 179.87 to 179.8757 and any recent updates at least annually.
177.1 177.2 177.3 177.4 177.5	(c) The coordinator must place information explaining sections 179.87 to 179.8757 on the Department of Labor and Industry's website in at least English, Spanish, and any other language that at least ten percent of meat-processing workers communicate in fluently. The coordinator must also make the information accessible to persons with impaired visual acuity.
177.6	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective November 1, 2023.
177.7	Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 182.654, subdivision 11, is amended to read:
177.8 177.9 177.10	Subd. 11. <b>Refusal to work under dangerous conditions.</b> An employee acting in good faith has the right to refuse to work under conditions which the employee reasonably believes present an imminent danger of death or serious physical harm to the employee.
	A reasonable belief of imminent danger of death or serious physical harm includes but is not limited to a reasonable belief of the employee that the employee has been assigned to work in an unsafe or unhealthful manner with a hazardous substance, harmful physical

- 177.14 agent or infectious agent.
- 177.15 An employer may not discriminate against an employee for a good faith refusal to
- 177.16 perform assigned tasks if the employee has requested that the employer correct the hazardous
- 177.17 conditions but the conditions remain uncorrected.

- 168.4 An employee who has refused in good faith to perform assigned tasks and who has not
- 168.5 been reassigned to other tasks by the employer shall, in addition to retaining a right to
- 168.6 continued employment, receive pay for the tasks which would have been performed if (1)
- 168.7 the employee requests the commissioner to inspect and determine the nature of the hazardous 160.0
- 168.8 condition, and (2) the commissioner determines that the employee, by performing the
- assigned tasks, would have been placed in imminent danger of death or serious physicalharm.
- 168.11Additionally, an administrative law judge may order, in addition to the relief found in168.12section 182.669:
- 168.13 (1) reinstatement of the worker to the same position held before any adverse personnel
- 168.14 action or to an equivalent position, reinstatement of full fringe benefits and seniority rights,
- 168.15 and compensation for unpaid wages, benefits and other remuneration, or front pay in lieu
- 168.16 of reinstatement; and
- 168.17 (2) compensatory damages payable to the aggrieved worker equal to the greater of \$5,000
- 168.18 or twice the actual damages, including unpaid wages, benefits and other remuneration, and
- 168.19 punitive damages.

177.18 An employee who has refused in good faith to perform assigned tasks and who has not

- 177.19 been reassigned to other tasks by the employer shall, in addition to retaining a right to
- 177.20 continued employment, receive pay for the tasks which would have been performed if (1)
- 177.21 the employee requests the commissioner to inspect and determine the nature of the hazardous 177.22
- 177.22 condition, and (2) the commissioner determines that the employee, by performing the 177.23 assigned tasks, would have been placed in imminent danger of death or serious physical
- 177.24 harm.

177.25Additionally, an administrative law judge may order, in addition to the relief found in177.26section 182.669:

- 177.27 (1) reinstatement of the worker to the same position held before any adverse personnel
- 177.28 action or to an equivalent position, reinstatement of full fringe benefits and seniority rights;
- 177.29 compensation for unpaid wages, benefits, and other remuneration; or front pay in lieu of
- 177.30 reinstatement; and
- 177.31 (2) compensatory damages payable to the aggrieved worker equal to the greater of \$5,000
- 177.32 or twice the actual damages, including unpaid wages, benefits, and other remuneration and
- 177.33 punitive damages.