

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 232

SESSION: 2004 Regular Session

TOPIC: Kosher Food Labeling

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Overview

Minnesota Food Law (Chapter 31 of Minnesota Statutes) establishes legal requirements for the accurate labeling of foods offered for sale in the state. Included among the numerous requirements for accurate labeling are laws and rules required to assure proper identification of foods prepared in adherence to religious customs and standards. [In 2000, the Minnesota Legislature enacted laws to enforce accurate labeling of halal foods “prepared and maintained in compliance with the laws and customs of the Islamic religion...”]. Minnesota Laws 2004, chapter 232, amends sections of Minnesota Food Law codified in 1929 that require foods labeled as “kosher” to have been prepared or processed “in accordance with *orthodox Hebrew* religious requirements.” Under the new law, foods will be considered kosher if the stamp, label, or other mark indicates that they have been prepared or processed in accordance with standards of an identified “rabbinic authority.”

- 1 K kosher requirements.** Amends existing law by eliminating the requirement that kosher foods be prepared and processed in accordance with “orthodox Hebrew” requirements. Instead, foods will be kosher if the stamp, label, or other mark indicates that they have been prepared or processed in accordance with standards of an identified “rabbinic authority.”
- 2 Marks, stamps, tags, brands, or labels.** Amends existing law by establishing the standard for properly identified kosher foods as being a stamp, label, or other mark that indicates that they have been prepared or processed in accordance with standards of an identified “rabbinic authority” rather than specifying “orthodox Hebrew” requirements.