

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 149
Version: Second Engrossment
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Subject: Religious-Sanctioned Foods
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Overview

Various cultural and religious groups have long-established traditions, preparation practices, and standards for the foods and meats they consume. Minnesota Statutes currently require accuracy in claims that a food is "kosher," meaning that it is certified as having been prepared in accordance with Jewish dietary requirements. House File 149 creates parallel protection for Halal foods, meats, and poultry, meaning that they have been slaughtered and prepared in accordance with Islamic religious requirements. Willfully representing non-Halal foods, meats, or poultry as being Halal is prohibited.

Section

- 1 **Halal products.** Prohibits the sale or serving of foods or food products, meat or meat products, or poultry or poultry products falsely represented as being Halal. A defense against false representation is created if a person relied in good faith on the representation of a food handler that the food was prepared under or sanctioned by Islamic religious requirements.
- 2 **Marks, stamps, tags, brands, or labels.** Specifically defines the marking, labeling, or other actions that would deliberately misrepresent non-Halal food as being Halal.
- 3 **Instruction to Revisor.** Instructs the Revisor of Statutes to change in Minnesota Statutes and Rules the term "orthodox Hebrew religious" to "Jewish dietary."