

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 149

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Version: First Engrossment

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Subject: Religious-Sanctioned Foods

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Overview

Various cultural and religious groups have established traditions and standards for the foods 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 orthodox Hebrew religious requirements. House File 149 creates parallel protection for Halaal foods and food products, meaning that they have been prepared in accordance with Islamic religious requirements. Willfully representing non-Halaal food or food products as being Halaal is prohibited.

Section

- 1 **Halaal products.** Prohibits the sale or serving of foods or food products falsely represented as being Halaal. 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-Halaal food as being Halaal.
- 3 **Instruction to Revisor.** Instructs the Revisor of Statutes to change in Minnesota Statutes and Rules the term "orthodox Hebrew religious" to "Jewish dietary."