

Subject Pet food
Authors Lippert and others
Analyst Colbey Sullivan
Date February 24, 2020

Summary

This bill would exempt registered cottage food producers who sell certain home-processed dog and cat treats from licensing, inspections, fees, labeling standards, recordkeeping, and other requirements of the state's commercial feed law that otherwise apply to those who sell pet food or livestock feed (Minn. Stat. ch. 25).

Under current law, cottage food producers—i.e., individuals who sell no more than \$18,000/year of homemade baked goods, pickles, or other human food items that should pose a low risk of foodborne illness—are not required to obtain a state food handler license but must register with Minnesota Department of Agriculture and satisfy certain labeling and training requirements.

This bill would allow these same cottage food producers to sell baked or dehydrated pet treats if (1) the treats are made from food that poses a low risk of foodborne illness, (2) the seller displays a sign at the point of sale indicating that the treats are homemade and not subject to state inspection, and (3) each individual treat is labeled and the label includes certain specified information. It also authorizes registered individuals to sell their pet treats directly to the consumer in the same manner in which cottage food producers are allowed to sell their homemade human food items—i.e., at a community event or farmers' market, from the individual's home, etc.