

Subject Livestock dealers, meat packing, and retailers

Authors Hansen, R. and others

Analyst Megan Mullenbach

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Overview

This bill prohibits “dominant retailers” from obtaining an ownership interest in or entering into exclusive contracts with livestock dealers or meat packing companies. Enforcement of this section is split between Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the attorney general.

Summary

| Section | Description |
|---------|--|
| 1 | <p>Dominant retailer.</p> <p>Defines “dominant retailer” in the livestock market agency and dealer licensing chapter for purposes of section 2.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Prohibited ownership interests and exclusive contracts.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Ownership interests and exclusive contracts. Prohibits dominant retailers from directly or indirectly obtaining an ownership interest in a livestock dealer or meat packing company. Prohibits dominant retailers from entering into exclusive contracts with livestock dealers or meat packing companies that require the livestock dealer or meat packing company to exclusively sell to the dominant retailer.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Certification. Provides a process for compliance with subdivision 1 where dominant retailers must certify compliance by October 1, 2026. Allows MDA to provide a 180-day extension to noncompliant dominant retailers if the dominant retailer submits a divestiture plan.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Public comment, enforcement, and penalties. Allows the attorney general to enforce this section on behalf of the MDA for injunctive relief or civil penalties of \$25,000 each day a dominant retailer is not compliant. Requires the attorney general to accept public comments.</p> <p>This subdivision is effective August 1, 2027.</p> |



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