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S.B. 369
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Blessing

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SUMMARY

- Prohibits a person from knowingly force-feeding or hiring others to force-feed domestic poultry.
- Prohibits a person from knowingly distributing, selling, or offering for sale force-fed domestic poultry products.
- Requires the Director of Agriculture to issue a warning on a first offense and assess a civil penalty of up to \$100 for each subsequent offense.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Force-feeding birds

The bill prohibits a person from knowingly force-feeding any species of domestic poultry (“bird”), including ducks, geese, chickens, turkeys, or quail, in a manner that results in the overfeeding of the bird. “Force-feed” means to manually or mechanically force a bird to ingest more food or any substance than it would voluntarily consume under normal feeding conditions. Force-feeding includes the insertion of feed or any material into the bird’s throat or esophagus by a tube or similar device. Force-feeding is also commonly referred to as gavage, cramming, hand-feeding, or fattening.

The bill also prohibits a person from knowingly hiring another person to force-feed a bird, in a manner that results in the overfeeding of that bird. Similarly, it also prohibits knowingly distributing, selling, or offering for sale a force-fed product. A “force-fed product” is any product or derivative obtained in whole or in part from a bird that has been force-fed, including both of the following:

1. Food products, such as foie gras, magret, confit, pâté, fattened carcasses, or rendered fats; and

2. Nonfood products, such as feathers and down.¹

Penalties

The bill requires the Director of Agriculture to do both of the following:

- Issue a written warning to a person that violates one of the prohibitions discussed above on a first offense; and
- Assess a civil penalty of up to \$100 for each subsequent offense. Each day of violation constitutes a separate offense.

A person that is assessed a civil penalty by the Director may appeal the assessment in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.²

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-26-26

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¹ R.C. 959.22(A) and (B).

² R.C. 959.22(C).