

May 10, 2000

**S 1201. DATE LABELS FOR PERISHABLE FOODS. TO REQUIRE RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS TO STAMP OR ATTACH LABELS TO PREPACKAGED MEATS AND OTHER PERISHABLE FOODS SHOWING THE RECOMMENDED LAST DAY OF SALE.** Adds new GS 106-122.1 prohibiting retail food establishments from selling prepackaged meats, poultry, seafood, or other perishable food (meaning food that has a significant risk of spoilage, loss of value, or loss of palatability within 90 days of packaging) unless the package shows a last day of sale date. The food may be sold after that date if it is still wholesome and the package clearly shows the last day of sale date. The Board of Agriculture must adopt rules prescribing methods by which the food establishments calculate the last day of sale, consistent with public health and safety, and including a reasonable period after purchase for consumption. Bill's requirements do not apply to fresh fruits and vegetables, canned foods, frozen foods, and perishable foods packaged under state or federal laws and regulations requiring equal or greater information on the label.

Appropriates \$16,643 for 2000-2001 from General Fund to Dep't of Agriculture to fund one additional meat and poultry inspector position, conditioned upon the availability of federal matching funds.

Provides that act is to be considered a recent act of the General Assembly for rule-making purposes. Requires Board of Agriculture to adopt temporary rules within 90 days of effective date. Effective July 1, 2000.

**Intro. by Hagan.**

Ref. to Commerce	GS 106, APPROP
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June 20, 2000

**S 1201. DATE LABELS FOR MEAT/POULTRY/SEAFOOD.** Intro. 5/10/00. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Replaces original bill with a bill to "AMEND THE DEFINITION OF 'MISBRANDING' TO INCLUDE THE REMOVAL OR ALTERATION OF LABELS BEARING A 'SELL-BY' DATE OR LAST RECOMMENDED DAY OF SALE." Adds new section to GS 106-130 as title indicates. Covers removal or alteration by any person other than a customer. Permits repackaging or relabeling as long as the new package or label does not bear a "sell-by" date later than the original package. Permits relabeling if shelf life has been extended through freezing, cooking, or other processing. Appropriates \$32,876 from the General Fund to the Dep't of Agriculture and Consumer Services in 2000-2001 to fund an additional Food Regulatory Specialist I position for implementation of this act.