

HR 5079

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to publish criteria for the review of requests by certain meat or poultry establishments to operate at alternate inspection rates, to review and respond to such requests, and for other purposes.

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Jul 28, 2023

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry. (Sep 26, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/5079>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Finstad, Brad [R-MN-1]

Party: Republican • **State:** MN • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Sep 26, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 5106	Identical bill	Sep 19, 2023: Referred to the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry.

This bill directs the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to publish food safety criteria, and review requests, for meat and poultry establishments to operate at alternate inspection rates. (Under the bill, *alternate inspection rates* are any rates in excess of the maximum rates permissible under regulations implementing the post-mortem inspection requirements of the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act.)

The bill requires USDA to approve or deny a request to operate at alternate inspection rates within 90 days of submission. If USDA fails to respond within 90 days, the establishment's request shall be deemed approved by USDA.

Once USDA approves a request, an establishment may continue to operate pursuant to the terms of the request (i.e., the approval does not expire).

The bill establishes written notice requirements and a timeline for USDA to revoke an establishment's authority to operate at alternate inspection rates. As part of the revocation timeline, USDA must consult with the establishment to minimize the negative impacts of adjusting the inspection rates.

Further, USDA must authorize establishments currently operating under alternate inspection rates (e.g., under a USDA pilot program) to continue operating at such rates (1) so long as the establishment maintains effective process control, or (2) until USDA approves or denies a submitted request to operate at alternate inspection rates.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 26, 2023:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry.
- **Jul 28, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 28, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.