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HOUSE FISCAL AGENCY

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HB5480 SUBSTITUTE

Sponsor: Rep. Gary Woronchak

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Committee: AGRICULTURE AND RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

Analyst(s): Aben, Tim

Completed: 1/24/02

State Fiscal Impact

Cost: Indeterminate
Revenues: Indeterminate

Local Fiscal Impact

Cost: None
Revenues: None

The bill would provide penalties for consumer fraud in the sale of halal food or food products prepared in accordance with Islamic religious requirements. Persons found guilty with intent to defraud would be guilty of a misdemeanor.

* Please Note: The following information on Halal is taken directly from the internet site entitled "eat-halal.com" in the section labeled "What is Halal?". Further information is available on this and other internet sites.

The Arabic word "Halal" means lawful. In the Holy Quran, Allah commands Muslims (and all of mankind) to eat of the Halal things. The following are Halal: milk (from cows, sheep, camels, and goats); honey; fish; plant not intoxicant; fresh or naturally frozen vegetables; fresh or dried fruits; legumes and nuts like peanuts, cashew nuts, hazel nuts, walnuts, etc.; grains such as wheat, rice, rye, barley, oat, etc.

Animals such as cows, sheep, goats, deer, moose, chickens, ducks, game birds, etc., are also Halal, but they must be Zabihah (slaughtered according to Islamic Rites) in order to be suitable for consumption. The following procedure is the appropriate process for it to be Halal. The animal must be slaughtered by a Muslim, put down on the ground (or held if it is small) and its throat should be slit with a very sharp knife to make sure that the 3 main blood vessels are cut. While cutting the throat of the animal (without severing it), the person must pronounce the name of Allah or recite a blessing which contains the name of Allah.

The Department of Agriculture would be required to enforce the bill that would include investigating, inspecting, and supervising the sale of Halal meat and meat preparation.

The fiscal impact to the State would be indeterminate at this time. It would be dependant upon the number of inspectors necessary to fulfill the requirements of this act, and further would also be dependant on fees for these services, if any.