

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2007-040

State of Arkansas

*As Engrossed: H3/5/07 H3/14/07*

86th General Assembly

**A Bill**

Regular Session, 2007

HOUSE BILL 1761

By: Representatives Ragland, M. Martin, Norton, George, R. Green, King, Pyle, *Burris*

By: *Senator Whitaker*

*Referred to*

Agriculture, Forestry & Economic Development- House

by the House of Representatives

on 04/02/2007

**For An Act To Be Entitled**

AN ACT TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF ANIMAL PRODUCERS;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

**Subtitle**

THE FREEDOM-TO-FARM ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 2, Chapter 1 is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

2-1-301. Goals of the Freedom-to-Farm Act.

The General Assembly:

(1) Recognizes the contributions that animal production by hobbyists, commercial producers, and home food providers have made to this state;

(2) Encourages animal production, since they are a major part of the culture, customs, and economy of this state;

(3) Recognizes that protecting the right of production and sale of animals is integral to ensuring the economic growth and general welfare of this state;

(4) Recognizes that economic concerns and excessive regulation

1 have caused many Arkansas families to abandon the production of animals; and  
2 (5) *Desires*, through the Freedom-to-Farm Act, to encourage and  
3 protect home food production, direct farm-to-consumer sales, hobby  
4 production, off-farm commercial sales, and businesses that serve animal  
5 producers.

6  
7 2-1-302. Definitions.

8 (1) "Animal" means any living creature except a human or an  
9 insect other than a honeybee;

10 (2) "Electronic identification device" means any insertable or  
11 attachable apparatus that can emit frequencies that can be read by a  
12 frequency reader or scanner;

13 (3) "Premise" means a location at which an animal is grown,  
14 held, or sold.

15  
16 2-1-303. Exemption from registration and permitting.

17 Unless a law or rule to the contrary was in effect before January 1,  
18 2007, for an animal producer to participate in any activity on or off the  
19 animal producers' premise, including without limitation the transfer of  
20 property, a state, county, or city agency shall not require that the animal  
21 producer:

22 (1) Register the animal producers' premise;

23 (2) Have a premises identification; or

24 (3) Use electronic identification devices on or in animals.

25  
26 2-1-304. Voluntary compliance.

27 Nothing in this subchapter shall prohibit or restrict an animal  
28 producer from voluntarily complying with a program conducted by a public  
29 agency that may require premise registration, animal identification, or both.

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31 */s/ Ragland, et al*

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