

Criminal Lab Grown Meat - Written Material

I. State Laws

A. Florida:

1. Overview: Florida Senate Bill 1084 (2024) primarily addresses regulatory issues related to lab-grown meat and electric vehicle charging stations. The bill was signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis on May 1, 2024
2. Key Provisions:
 - a) Prohibition on Lab-Grown Meat:
 - (1) The bill bans the sale and distribution of lab-grown meat in Florida. This move is framed as a response to concerns about the potential impacts of lab-grown meat on traditional agriculture and consumer choice.
 - (2) Governor DeSantis and supporters argue that this ban is necessary to protect Florida's agricultural industry and preserve consumer trust in meat products.
 - b) Support for Traditional Agriculture:
 - (1) The bill includes measures to modernize Florida's Right to Farm Act, protecting farmers from frivolous lawsuits.
 - (2) It also provides tax exemptions for agricultural materials and funding for the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program, supporting over 36,000 acres of farmland.

B. Alabama

1. Summary of Alabama Senate Bill 23 (SB 23): Overview: Alabama Senate Bill 23 (SB 23), signed into law by Governor Kay Ivey on May 7, 2024, makes it illegal to manufacture, sell, or distribute lab-grown meat within the state. This legislation follows similar actions taken by Florida and reflects a growing trend among states to regulate or ban lab-grown meat products.
2. Key Provisions:
 - a) Prohibition of Lab-Grown Meat: The law categorizes the manufacture, sale, or distribution of food products made from cultured animal cells as unlawful. Violators can face penalties including fines and potential jail time. Specifically, individuals found in violation can be fined \$500 and face up to three months in jail.

- b) The bill aims to protect traditional meat industries by preventing competition from lab-grown alternatives, which are viewed by some as a threat to conventional farming and ranching practices.
 - 3. Rationale Behind the Ban:
 - a) Proponents of the bill argue that it protects the integrity of traditional agriculture and supports local farmers and ranchers. They contend that lab-grown meat undermines the established agricultural practices and poses economic risks to the conventional meat industry.
 - b) Critics of the ban claim it stifles innovation and limits consumer choice. They argue that lab-grown meat could provide a more sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative to traditional meat production.
- II. Regulatory framework
 - A. USDA Regulation of Meat: The USDA regulates meat, poultry, and certain egg products. Its primary responsibility is to ensure that these products are safe, wholesome, and accurately labeled.
 - 1. Key Responsibilities:
 - a) Inspection and Monitoring: Continuous inspection at slaughterhouses and processing plants. Inspectors check for signs of disease and ensure humane handling during slaughter.
 - 2. Labeling: Oversight of meat product labels to ensure truthfulness and non-misleading information. Required information includes product name, ingredients, net weight, and USDA inspection legend.
 - 3. Standards and Regulations: Sets standards for meat quality and safety, including limits on contaminants and residues. Regulates food additives, processing aids, and the use of chemicals in meat production.
 - 4. Enforcement: Authority to recall products, shut down facilities, and take legal action against violators.
 - 5. Relevant Legislation:
 - a) Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA)
 - b) Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA)
 - c) Egg Products Inspection Act (EPIA)
 - B. FDA Regulation of Most Other Foods: The FDA regulates the safety and labeling of most other foods, including dairy products, seafood,

produce, and packaged foods. Its mission is to protect public health by ensuring these foods are safe, sanitary, and properly labeled.

1. Key Responsibilities:

- a) Inspection and Monitoring: Inspections of food manufacturing facilities, warehouses, and retail establishments. Monitoring of imported foods to ensure compliance with U.S. standards.
- b) Labeling: Regulation of food product labels for accurate consumer information. Required information includes product name, ingredients, nutrition facts, and allergen declarations.
- c) Standards and Regulations: Sets safety standards for contaminants, pesticide residues, and food additives. Regulates food packaging materials to prevent contamination.
- d) Enforcement: Issues warning letters, initiates recalls, and pursues legal actions against violators.
- e) Relevant Legislation:
 - (1) Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act)
 - (2) Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)

C. Joint Regulation of Lab-Grown Meat:

1. Collaborative Framework: In March 2019, the USDA and FDA formalized an agreement to jointly regulate lab-grown meat products, delineating each agency's responsibilities.
2. FDA's Responsibilities:
 - a) Pre-Market Consultation: The FDA oversees the initial stages of the production process, including cell collection, cell banks, and cell growth and differentiation. The FDA ensures that cell culture technology is safe and meets regulatory requirements.
 - b) Inspection and Guidance: The FDA issues regulations or guidance on inspections for companies involved in cell collection and the early stages of cell culturing.
3. USDA's Responsibilities:
 - a) Harvest and Labeling: Once the cells are harvested, the USDA takes over to regulate the processing, labeling, and inspection of the final meat product. The USDA ensures that lab-grown meat products meet the same standards as traditionally produced meat, including safety, quality, and accurate labeling.

- b) Sanitation and Safety: Companies harvesting cells for human food are subject to FSIS regulations on sanitation, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) verification, and testing to ensure products are unadulterated and wholesome.
- 4. Enforcement and Coordination: Both agencies coordinate on policy development, enforcement actions, and consumer education to ensure clarity and safety in the market.