

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Environment Code - Antibiotic Use in Food Animals]

Ordinance amending the Environment Code to require certain retailers of raw meat and poultry to report the use of antibiotics in such products to the Department of the Environment, and require City departments to report the use of antibiotics in meat purchased by the City to the Department of the Environment.

Existing Law

San Francisco law does not currently require any disclosures regarding the use of antibiotics in meat or poultry products. Article 10 of the Health Code, regarding Meat and Meat Products, sets forth standards related to meat inspection and transport, and use of dyes, chemicals, and other substances in meat or meat products.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposal is an ordinance that would amend the Environment Code to require grocers of a certain size selling raw meat and/or poultry in the City to report to the Department of the Environment (the “Department”) the producer’s antibiotic use policy for each line of meat and poultry products sold. Grocers would also be required to retain documentation of these antibiotic use policies. The Department would publicly report on its website the antibiotic use policies of different meat and poultry brands sold by the covered grocers, and would be responsible for enforcement of the reporting requirements. Under the proposal, grocers for whom compliance would be infeasible may apply to the Department for a waiver from some or all reporting requirements.

The proposal would also require City departments procuring raw meat to conduct an audit of their meat purchases of the year prior to this proposal’s enactment. These City departments would be required report to the Department information regarding the use of antibiotics in the purchased meat, and an estimate of when and whether they may be able to transition to procurement of meat raised without the routine use of antibiotics.