

**SUBJECT:** Exempting certain low-volume producers from DSHS regulations

**COMMITTEE:** Public Health — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 10 ayes — S. Thompson, Allison, Coleman, Frank, Guerra, Lucio, Ortega, Price, Sheffield, Zedler

0 nays

1 absent — Wray

**WITNESSES:** For — Judith McGeary, Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance; Amy Hedtke; Terry Holcomb; Robyn Rhinehart; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Summer Wise and Mark Ramsey, Republican Party of Texas; Sheila Hemphill, Texas Right To Know; and 10 individuals)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Stephen Pahl, Department of State Health Services)

**BACKGROUND:** Health and Safety Code sec. 433.0245 requires low-volume livestock processing establishments exempt from federal inspection to register with the Department of State Health Services and to develop a sanitary operation procedures plan.

**DIGEST:** CSHB 410 would expand the definition of a low-volume livestock processing establishment to include an establishment that processed fewer than 10,000 poultry or domestic rabbits in a calendar year.

The bill would exempt a low-volume livestock processing establishment that was exempt from federal inspection and processed fewer than 500 domestic rabbits in a calendar year from having to register with the Department of State Health Services and develop a sanitary operations procedures plan.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

**SUPPORTERS  
SAY:**

CSHB 410 would remove a burden on individuals selling fewer than 500 processed rabbits a year by allowing them to sell or gift rabbit meat without having to use expensive processing facilities. The bill would support rural economies by enabling local rabbit producers to barter and sell their goods. Small farmers that raise rabbits would benefit from the removal of the unnecessary requirement to register with the Department of State Health Services and submit a sanitary operations procedures plan. These plans are burdensome and prohibitively expensive for low-volume producers to carry out.

**OPPONENTS  
SAY:**

No concerns identified.