



## **Maryland Pork Producers Association**

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Senate Bill 188 – Public Health - Misbranded Food - Meat Products

February 6, 2020

MPPA Position: SUPPORT

This bill establishes, for purposes of Maryland’s Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, that a food is misbranded if it is offered for sale in the State with a label that identifies the product as a meat or a meat product and the product contains animal tissue cultured from animal cells outside the animal or is made from plants or insects.

Meat is defined as “the flesh of an animal consumed as food.” The federal Food Drug, and Cosmetics Act prohibits the manufacture or sale of any food that is adulterated or misbranded. The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is responsible for enforcing the FDCA at the state level. The FDCA states that a food is misbranded if its packaging is misleading in any way, is an imitation of any other food, or purports to be a food which by definition, it is not. All of this is to say that food labeled as meat that does not contain the flesh or muscle of an animal is not meat.

The Maryland Pork Producers Association is in no way opposed to the option or sale of plant derived protein. Our concern is the representation of non-meat products as meat which contributes to consumer misinformation and confusion. By way of example, a popular breakfast establishment has begun selling “Beyond Sausage” as a meat option on their breakfast sandwiches. The Beyond Sausage patties contain 23 ingredients including Methylcellulose, Pyridoxine Hydrochloride and Cyanocobalamin. The traditional pork sausage contains ten ingredients including pork, water, and primarily spices such as paprika, turmeric and garlic powder. The plant based proteins also often have higher sodium content. We are not saying there is anything wrong with the plant based sausage option but consumers should not be misled to believe that it is meat and similarly composed as traditional meat options.

Maryland Pork Producers urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 188.

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