

*Town of Weymouth
Massachusetts*

Robert L. Hedlund
Mayor

75 Middle Street
Weymouth, MA 02189



Office: 781.340.5012
Fax: 781.335.8184

www.weymouth.ma.us

MEMORANDUM

23 135

TO: TOWN COUNCIL
CC: TED LANGILL, CHIEF OF STAFF
DANIEL MCCORMACK, DIRECTOR HEALTH DEPT.
FROM: ROBERT L. HEDLUND, MAYOR
SUBJECT: RITUAL SLAUGHTER ORDINANCE
DATE: DECEMBER 7, 2023

2023 DEC 14 AM 9:35
RECEIVED
TOWN OF WEYMOUTH
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

I submit the following measure for consideration by Town Council:

“That the Town of Weymouth, through Town Council with the approval of the Mayor, hereby amends the Town of Weymouth Ordinances in the following manner:

Section 6-700 Nondomesticated Animals and Domesticated Animals, of the Town of Weymouth Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by adding the following new subsection:-

§ 6-706 Ritual Slaughter.

In accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 94, § 139G, the Town shall not prohibit, abridge or in any way hinder the religious freedom of any person or group, from ritual slaughter and the handling or other preparation of livestock for ritual slaughter. The term “ritual slaughter” means slaughter in accordance with the ritual requirements of the Jewish faith or any other religious faith that prescribes a method of slaughter

2023 DEC 14 AM 9:54
RECEIVED
TOWN OF WEYMOUTH
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

whereby the animal suffers loss of consciousness by anemia of the brain caused by the simultaneous and instantaneous severance of the carotid arteries with a sharp instrument. Provided that such livestock is healthy and is slaughtered under such sanitary standards, practices and procedures to not create a public health and safety hazard. Any practice of ritual slaughter must be sheltered on private property and outside of public view.

This measure requires legal notice and a public hearing.

Part I ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT

Title XV REGULATION OF TRADE

Chapter 94 INSPECTION AND SALE OF FOOD, DRUGS AND VARIOUS ARTICLES

Section 139G RITUAL SLAUGHTER

Section 139G. Nothing in sections one hundred and thirty-nine C to one hundred and thirty-nine E, inclusive, shall prohibit, abridge, or in any way hinder the religious freedom of any person or group, and, in order to protect freedom of religion, ritual slaughter and the handling or other preparation of livestock for ritual slaughter shall be exempt from the provisions of said sections. In this section the term "ritual slaughter" means slaughter in accordance with the ritual requirements of the Jewish faith or any other religious faith that prescribes a method of slaughter whereby the animal suffers loss of consciousness by anemia of the brain caused by the simultaneous and instantaneous severance of the carotid arteries with a sharp instrument.