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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. **2697**

03/08/2023 Authored by Wolgamott  
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to agriculture; eliminating prohibition on below cost sales of dairy;  
1.3 repealing Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 32D.24; 32D.25; 32D.26; 32D.27;  
1.4 32D.28.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. **REPEALER.**

1.7 Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 32D.24; 32D.25; 32D.26; 32D.27; and 32D.28, are  
1.8 repealed.

### **32D.24 DAIRY TRADE PRACTICES; DEFINITIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Application.** The definitions in this section apply to sections 32D.24 to 32D.28.

Subd. 2. **Basic cost.** (a) "Basic cost," for a processor, means the actual cost of the raw milk plus 75 percent of the actual processing and handling costs for a selected class I or class II dairy product.

(b) Basic cost, for a wholesaler, means the actual cost of the selected class I or class II dairy product purchased from the processor or another wholesaler.

(c) Basic cost, for a retailer, means the actual cost of the selected class I or class II dairy product purchased from a processor or wholesaler.

Subd. 3. **Bona fide charity.** "Bona fide charity" means a corporation, trust, fund, or foundation organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes.

Subd. 4. **Processor.** "Processor" means a person engaged in manufacturing or processing selected class I or class II dairy products in the person's own plant for sale in Minnesota.

Subd. 5. **Producer.** "Producer" means a person who operates a dairy herd or herds in Minnesota producing milk or cream commercially and whose milk or cream is sold to, or received or handled by, a distributor or processor. Producer does not include an incorporated or unincorporated association of producers.

Subd. 6. **Responsible person.** "Responsible person" means the business entity that makes payment to an individual Grade A or Grade B milk producer.

Subd. 7. **Selected class I dairy products.** "Selected class I dairy products" means milk for human consumption in fluid form and all other class I dairy products as defined by the Upper Midwest Milk Marketing Order, Code of Federal Regulations, title 7, part 1030.40, or successor orders.

Subd. 8. **Selected class II dairy products.** "Selected class II dairy products" means milk for human consumption processed into fluid cream, eggnog, yogurt, and all other class II dairy products as defined by the Upper Midwest Milk Marketing Order, Code of Federal Regulations, title 7, part 1030.40, or successor orders.

Subd. 9. **Sell at retail; sale at retail; retail sales.** "Sell at retail," "sale at retail," or "retail sales" means a retail sale or offer for retail sale of a selected class I or class II dairy product for ultimate consumption or use.

Subd. 10. **Sell at wholesale; sale at wholesale; wholesale sales.** "Sell at wholesale," "sale at wholesale," or "wholesale sales" means sale or offer for sale of a selected class I dairy product for purposes of resale or further processing or manufacturing but does not include a producer selling or delivering milk to a processor.

Subd. 11. **Wholesaler.** "Wholesaler" means a person including a distributor in the business of making sales of selected class I or class II dairy products at wholesale in Minnesota. In the case of a person making sales at both retail and wholesale, wholesaler applies only to the sales at wholesale.

### **32D.25 DUTIES AND POWERS OF COMMISSIONER; DATA PRIVACY.**

Subdivision 1. **Duties; rules.** The commissioner shall adopt rules to implement and administer sections 32D.24 to 32D.28.

Subd. 2. **Data privacy.** Financial and production information received by the commissioner on processors, wholesalers, or retailers, including but not limited to financial statements, fee reports, price schedules, cost documentation, books, papers, records, or other documentation for the purpose of administration and enforcement of this chapter is classified private data or nonpublic data pursuant to chapter 13. The classification shall not limit the use of the information in the preparation, institution, or conduct of a legal proceeding by the commissioner in enforcing this chapter.

### **32D.26 SALES BELOW COST PROHIBITED; EXCEPTIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Policy; processors; wholesalers; retailers.** (a) It is the intent of the legislature to accomplish partial deregulation of milk marketing with a minimum negative impact on small-volume retailers.

(b) A processor or wholesaler may not sell or offer for sale selected class I or class II dairy products at a price lower than the processor's or wholesaler's basic cost.

APPENDIX  
Repealed Minnesota Statutes: 23-03098

(c) A retailer may not sell or offer for sale selected class I or class II dairy products at a retail price lower than (1) 105 percent of the retailer's basic cost until June 30, 1994; and (2) the retailer's basic cost beginning July 1, 1994, and thereafter. A retailer may not use any method or device in the sale or offer for sale of a selected dairy product that results in a violation of this section.

Subd. 2. **Exceptions.** The minimum processor, wholesaler, and retailer prices of subdivision 1 do not apply:

(1) to a sale complying with section 325D.06;

(2) to a retailer giving away selected class I and class II dairy products for free if the customer is not required to make a purchase; or

(3) to a processor, wholesaler, or retailer giving away selected class I and class II dairy products for free or at a reduced cost to a bona fide charity.

**32D.27 REDRESS FOR INJURY OR THREATENED INJURY.**

A person injured by a violation of sections 32D.24 to 32D.28 may commence a legal action based on the violation in a court of competent jurisdiction and may recover economic damages and the costs of the action, including reasonable attorney fees. A person injured or who is threatened with injury or loss by reason of violation of sections 32D.24 to 32D.28 may commence a legal action based on the violation and obtain injunctive relief in a court of competent jurisdiction against persons involved in a violation or threatened violation of sections 32D.24 to 32D.28 to prevent and restrain violations or threatened violations of sections 32D.24 to 32D.28 without alleging or proving actual damages or that an adequate remedy at law does not exist, so that injunctive relief can be obtained promptly and without awaiting evidence of injury or actual damage. The injunctive relief does not abridge and is not in lieu of any other civil remedy provided in sections 32D.24 to 32D.28.

**32D.28 ANNUAL SUSPENSION OF DAIRY TRADE PRACTICES ACT.**

The provisions of section 32D.26 are suspended during the month of June each year in honor of "Dairy Month."