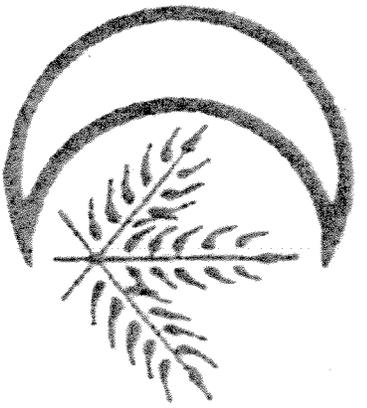


Senate Bill 185 relating to: Sale of Halal Food

| | |
|---------------|---|
| BILL SPONSORS | Introduced by Senator Kanavas; Cosponsored by Representative Townsend |
| BILL HISTORY | <p>Senate Bill 185 was introduced on 06-03-03 and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions and Insurance.</p> <p>A public hearing was held on 07-29-03.</p> <p>Executive Session was held by Polling on 08-04-03</p> <p>The committee recommended SB 185 for passage on a vote Ayes 5, Noes 0.</p> |
| LRB ANALYSIS | <p>Current Law: Current law prohibits a person from doing any of the following with intent to defraud:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Falsely representing that any meat sold by the person is kosher and as having been prepared under orthodox Hebrew religious requirements. 2. Falsely representing that any food is kosher and as having been prepared under orthodox Hebrew religious requirements by having the word "kosher" on the food's package. 3. Selling both kosher and nonkosher meat unless each kind of meat is identified as kosher or nonkosher. 4. In a restaurant, falsely representing that food is kosher and as having been prepared under orthodox Hebrew religious requirements. 5. In a restaurant, selling both kosher and nonkosher food unless the window signs and display advertising state that both kosher and nonkosher foods are sold. <p>This bill</p> <p>Proposed Changes: This bill creates prohibitions related to the sale of halal food that are the same as under current law related to kosher food. "Halal" is defined as prepared under and maintained in strict compliance with the laws and customs of the Islamic religion as expressed by reliable, recognized Islamic entities and scholars.</p> <p>Major Impact: None</p> |
| FISCAL EFFECT | The estimated fiscal effect: None |
| SUPPORT | <p>The following person/people appeared in favor of this bill: Senator Ted Kanavas</p> <p>The following person/people registered in favor of this bill: None</p> <p>No one registered his or her support for the bill with the State Ethics Board, nor testified or registered at the public hearing.</p> <p>No organization(s) registered their intention to lobby on SB185 or took a position on the bill:</p> |
| OPPOSITION | <p>No one appeared in opposition to this bill.</p> <p>No one registered in opposition to this bill.</p> <p>No one registered his or her opposition for the bill with the State Ethics Board, but did not testify or register at the public hearing.</p> |
| CONTACT | John O'Brien, Committee Clerk Senate Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions and Insurance. (608) 266-0703 |
| DATE | August 8th, 2003 |



**ISLAMIC FOOD AND NUTRITION COUNCIL
OF AMERICA**

CRESCENT M HALAL SUPERVISION DIVISION

DR. MOHAMED SADEK

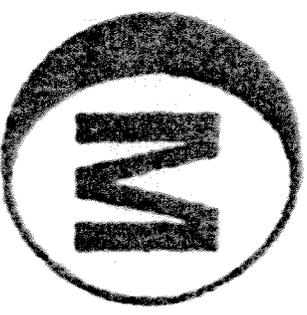
Director, International

5901 N. Cicero Ave. #309

Chicago, Illinois 60646

Tel: 773-283-3708

Fax: 773-283-3973



e-mail: sadek@ifanca.org

www.ifanca.org



THE ISLAMIC FOOD AND NUTRITION COUNCIL OF AMERICA
 المجلس الإسلامي الأمريكي للغذاء و التغذية

5901 N. Cicero Avenue, Suite 309, Chicago, Illinois 60646 Phone: (773) 283-3708 Fax: (773) 283-3973

July 29, 2003

Honorable Chairman Dale Schultz and
 Members of the Committee
 P. O. Box 7882
 Madison, WI 53707
 Fax: (608) 264-6914
 Tel: (608) 266-9174

Re: Halal Food Senate Bill # 185

Honorable Chairman Dale Schultz,

I bring to you the greetings of Islam, the universal greetings, "Assalamu Alaikum," "Peace be unto you". I am writing this letter in support of the proposed Halal Food Bill, on behalf of more than many Muslim consumers residing in the state of Wisconsin. I am representing the Islamic Food & Nutrition Council of America, a Halal advocacy organization.

My name is Dr. Mohamed Sadek, currently of Streamwood, Illinois. I am a Muslim by birth and a food scientist by training. For the past twenty years, I have worked or being closely associated with Halal Certification. I am also a very conscientious and knowledgeable consumer. For several years, I have observed the business practices of merchants who sell Halal products to the Muslim consumers. Over this same period, I have noticed the number of businesses claiming to offer Halal products for sale, grow from a few to over 2000 in USA. I also know that the demand for Halal meat products is greater than the supply which presents opportunities for the unscrupulous businessmen, both Muslim and Non-Muslim, to charge unreasonably high prices Halal meat and claim non-Halal meat to be Halal, in order to take advantage of this situation.

Consumer fraud is quite prevalent, especially at the distributor and retailer level.

- Delivery trucks from distributors of non-Halal meats frequently deliver products to the stores with Halal markings on the signage.
- Distributors have non-Halal processed meats, packed under Halal labels.
- Pizza restaurants claim to sell Halal Pizza, while they make pork sausage items using the same equipments by the same personnel.
- Restaurants and retail shops claiming to sell Halal items but not able to provide proof of their claim.
- Exporters removing the labels from the cans and re-labeling with Halal or Arabic language labels.



IFANCA's registered trademark, the crescent M, appears on products which have been certified by IFANCA to be halal

WWW.IFANCA.ORG

July 29, 2003
Chairman Dale Schultz
Senate Bill # 185

Page 2

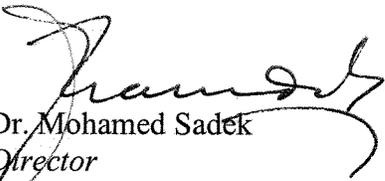
There are many more similar examples.

Currently, one of the means of addressing such problems is to file a complaint with the respective city or country health or consumer affairs departments. However, due to the lack of clear laws or due to jurisdiction issues, such complaints have been slow to be resolved.

In my understanding, the proposed Halal Food Bill will go a long way, in addressing these problems and will offer means of preventing consumer fraud.

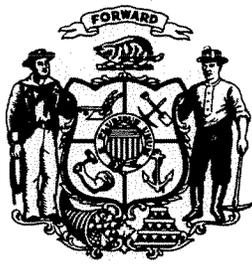
Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Dr. Mohamed Sadek
Director
Islamic Food & Nutrition Council of America

Email: sadek@ifanca.org



**Senate Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions
and Insurance**

Room 18 South State Capitol, PO Box 7882, Madison WI 53707-7882
(608) 266-0703

Senator Dale W. Schultz, Chairman

Committee Clerk. John O'Brien

COMMITTEE BALLOT

Senator Neal Kedzie
Room # 313 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

July 31st, 2003

From;
Senator Dale Schultz, Chairman

Dear Senator Kedzie,

On Tuesday July 29th, 2003 our committee held a public hearing on Senate Bill 185, AN ACT to create 97.55 of the statutes; relating to: sale of halal food. (Attached)

During the hearing, the committee requested that the bills author, Senator Kanavas, provide the committee members with testimony from the Islamic community expressing their position on Senate Bill 185.

Attached find a letter dated July 29th, 2003 from the Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America, supporting the proposal.

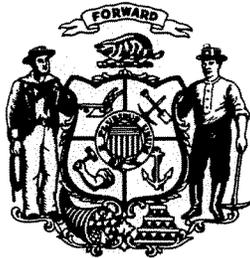
Based on the testimony received by the committee during the public hearing and the attached letter, the Chair respectfully requests your vote on a motion of passage of Senate Bill 185. Please return this ballot to Room 18 South as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Aye Nay

Neal J. Kedzie
State Senator Neal Kedzie

8/4/03
Date



JUL 31 2003

**Senate Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions
and Insurance**

Room 18 South State Capitol, PO Box 7882, Madison WI 53707-7882
(608) 266-0703

Senator Dale W. Schultz, Chairman

Committee Clerk. John O'Brien

COMMITTEE BALLOT

Senator Julie Lassa
Room 3 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

July 31st, 2003

From;
Senator Dale Schultz, Chairman

Dear Senator Lassa,

On Tuesday July 29th, 2003 our committee held a public hearing on Senate Bill 185, AN ACT *to create* 97.55 of the statutes; **relating to:** sale of halal food. (Attached)

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Thank you.

Aye Nay


State Senator Julie Lassa

7/31/03
Date



**Senate Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions
and Insurance**

Room 18 South State Capitol, PO Box 7882, Madison WI 53707-7882
(608) 266-0703

Senator Dale W. Schultz, Chairman
Committee Clerk, John O'Brien

COMMITTEE BALLOT

Senator Dave Hansen
Room # 319 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

July 31st, 2003

From;
Senator Dale Schultz, Chairman

Dear Senator Hansen,

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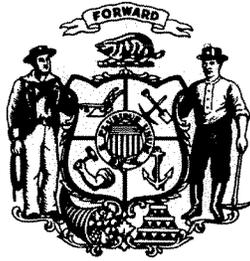
Thank you.

Aye X Nay _____



State Senator Dave Hansen

7/27/03
Date



**Senate Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions
and Insurance**

Room 18 South State Capitol, PO Box 7882, Madison WI 53707-7882
(608) 266-0703

Senator Dale W. Schultz, Chairman

Committee Clerk. John O'Brien

COMMITTEE BALLOT

Senator Ron Brown
Room # 104 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

July 31st, 2003

From;
Senator Dale Schultz, Chairman

Dear Senator Brown,

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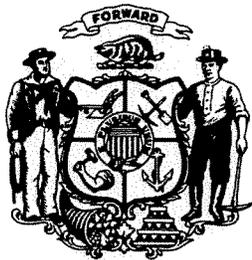
Thank you.

Aye Nay

Ronald W. Brown

State Senator Ron Brown

7/31/03
Date



**Senate Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions
and Insurance**

Room 18 South State Capitol, PO Box 7882, Madison WI 53707-7882
(608) 266-0703

Senator Dale W. Schultz, Chairman

Committee Clerk, John O'Brien

COMMITTEE BALLOT

Senator Dale Schultz
Room # 18 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882.

July 31st, 2003

From;
Senator Dale Schultz, Chairman

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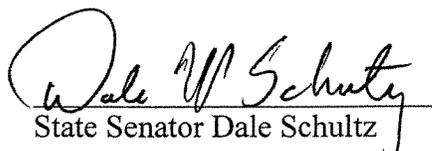
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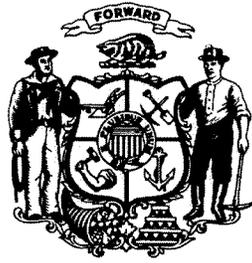
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Thank you.

Aye _____ Nay _____


State Senator Dale Schultz

Date



JUL 31 2003

**Senate Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions
and Insurance**

Room 18 South State Capitol, PO Box 7882, Madison WI 53707-7882
(608) 266-0703

Senator Dale W. Schultz, Chairman
Committee Clerk. John O'Brien

COMMITTEE BALLOT

Senator Julie Lassa
Room 3 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

July 31st, 2003

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Senator Dale Schultz, Chairman

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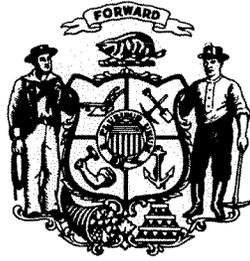
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Thank you.

Aye Nay

Julie Lassa
State Senator Julie Lassa

7/31/03
Date



**Senate Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions
and Insurance**

Room 18 South State Capitol, PO Box 7882, Madison WI 53707-7882
(608) 266-0703

Senator Dale W. Schultz, Chairman
Committee Clerk. John O'Brien

COMMITTEE BALLOT

Senator Neal Kedzie
Room # 313 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

July 31st, 2003

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Senator Dale Schultz, Chairman

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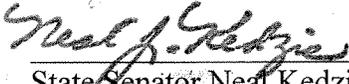
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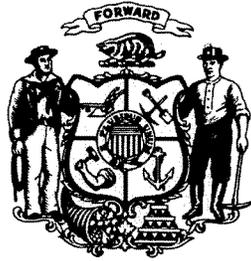
Thank you.

Aye Nay



State Senator Neal Kedzie

8/4/03
Date



**Senate Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions
and Insurance**

Room 18 South State Capitol, PO Box 7882, Madison WI 53707-7882
(608) 266-0703

Senator Dale W. Schultz, Chairman
Committee Clerk. John O'Brien

COMMITTEE BALLOT

Senator Dave Hansen
Room # 319 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

July 31st, 2003

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Thank you.

Aye X Nay _____

Dave Hansen
State Senator Dave Hansen

7/23/03
Date



**Senate Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions
and Insurance**

Room 18 South State Capitol, PO Box 7882, Madison WI 53707-7882
(608) 266-0703

Senator Dale W. Schultz, Chairman
Committee Clerk. John O'Brien

COMMITTEE BALLOT

Senator Dale Schultz
Room # 18 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

July 31st, 2003

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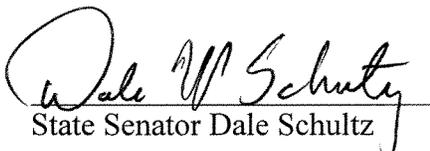
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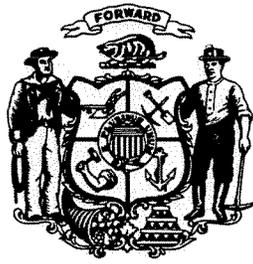
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Thank you.

Aye Nay


State Senator Dale Schultz

 / /
Date



**Senate Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions
and Insurance**

Room 18 South State Capitol, PO Box 7882, Madison WI 53707-7882
(608) 266-0703

Senator Dale W. Schultz, Chairman

Committee Clerk. John O'Brien

COMMITTEE BALLOT

Senator Ron Brown
Room # 104 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

July 31st, 2003

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Thank you.

Aye Nay
Ronald W. Brown

State Senator Ron Brown

7/31/03
Date

Vote Record

Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions and Insurance

Date: 7/29/02

Moved by: Seconded by:

AB SB 185 Clearinghouse Rule
AJR SJR Appointment
AR SR Other

A/S Amdt
A/S Amdt to A/S Amdt
A/S Sub Amdt
A/S Amdt to A/S Sub Amdt
A/S Amdt to A/S Amdt to A/S Sub Amdt

- Be recommended for:
Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrency

Table with 5 columns: Committee Member, Aye, No, Absent, Not Voting. Rows include Senator Dale Schultz, Senator Ronald Brown, Senator Neal Kedzie, Senator David Hansen, Senator Julie Lassa.

Totals:

Hold



TED KANAVAS
STATE SENATOR

Date: Tuesday, July 29, 2003
To: Members of the Senate Agriculture, Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
From: Senator Kanavas
Re: Testimony in support of Senate Bill 185 - "Halal Foods"

At the request of a constituent in my district, I introduced SB 185 to create prohibitions related to the sale of halal food that are the same as our current laws related to kosher food. "Kosher" is defined as food that is prepared under orthodox Hebrew religious requirements.

"Halal," which means lawful or permitted in Arabic, is defined as prepared under and maintained in strict compliance with the laws and customs of the Islamic religion as expressed by reliable, recognized Islamic entities and scholars.

States currently with Halal laws are California, New Jersey, Michigan, Minnesota, and Illinois. Those considering Hala legislation are New York, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin.

According to the Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America (IFANCA), all foods are considered Halal except the following, which are Haram, meaning unlawful or prohibited:

1. Swine/pork and its by-products
2. Animals improperly slaughtered or dead before slaughtering
3. Animals killed in the name of anyone other than ALLAH (God)
4. Alcohol and intoxicants
5. Carnivorous animals, birds of prey and land animals without external ears
6. Blood and blood by-products
7. Foods contaminated with any of the above products.

I would like to thank the Committee for having a hearing on SB 185 and urge your support for this legislation.

STATE CAPITOL

P.O. BOX 7882 ■ ROOM 20 SOUTH ■ MADISON, WISCONSIN 53707-7882
(608) 266-9174 ■ (800) 863-8883 ■ FAX: (608) 264-6914