



**New York State YMCA**  
**Youth And Government**

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FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 3

Bill #:AL-20

1 **Sponsors:** Aidan Conroy, Anthony Forezzi, Kyle Lewis, and Donovan Wray

2

3 **An Act To** Amend the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law, Article 28 to  
4 add Section 501 to ban the storage and sale of force-fed animal products by food  
5 service establishments.

6

7 *The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:*

8

9 **Purpose**

10 This legislation will ban the storage and sale of any force-fed product or food  
11 containing a force-fed product by food service establishments.

12

13 **Summary of Provisions**

14 **Section 1**

15 **Food service establishment:** a place where food is prepared and served for  
16 consumption by consumers.

17 **Retail food establishment:** a place where food is prepared or stored for retail sale to  
18 consumers.

19 **Force-fed product:** a product produced via the practice of feeding by force food or  
20 food supplements to an animal through the throat, esophagus or stomach.

21

22 **Section 2**

23 **§501 Prohibition on the storage and sale of force-fed products or products derived**  
24 **from or containing force-fed products.**

25 **No food service establishment or retail food establishment shall store or offer for**  
26 **sale any force-fed product or products derived from or containing force-fed**  
27 **products, including, but not limited to, foie gras. Any violation of this section shall**  
28 **be subject to the penalties set forth in Article 3, Section 39 of the Agriculture and**  
29 **Markets Law.**

30

31 **Justification**

32 Force-feeding of birds and other animals for human consumption has been  
33 denounced worldwide as animal abuse. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals  
34 (PETA) reports that over a dozen countries have banned this practice and it will be  
35 outlawed in the European Union by 2020. In order to raise birds for foie gras, they  
36 are force-fed multiple pounds of grain and fat each day by a tube forced down their  
37 throats. Senator John Burton has described this as "doing the equivalent of  
38 waterboarding". Force feeding these animals causes their liver to grow to ten (10)  
39 times a normal organ. Birds suffer hemorrhaging, fungal and bacterial infections  
40 and a brain disease caused hepatic encephalopathy, a direct result of liver  
41 failure. Many of these animals die from heart failure from this method of feeding or



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42 from choking to death from vomiting. Many birds have difficulty standing because  
43 of their engorged livers distend their abdomens, and they may tear out their own  
44 feathers and attack each other out of stress. Others are unable to bathe or groom  
45 themselves and they become coated with excrement mixed with the oils that would  
46 normally protect their feathers from water. Other common health problems include  
47 damage to the esophagus, fungal infections, diarrhea, impaired liver function, heat  
48 stress, lesions, and fractures of the sternum. In one study, birds force-fed for foie  
49 gras had a mortality rate up to 20 times that of a control group of birds who were  
50 not force-fed. A PETA investigation at Hudson Valley Foie Gras in New York  
51 (previously called "Commonwealth Enterprises") found that a single worker was  
52 expected to force-feed 500 birds three times each day. The pace meant that they  
53 often treated the birds roughly and left them injured and suffering. So many ducks  
54 died from ruptured organs resulting from overfeeding that workers who killed fewer  
55 than 50 birds per month were given a bonus. A worker told a PETA investigator that  
56 he could feel tumor-like lumps, caused by force-feeding, in some ducks' throats.  
57 One duck had a maggot-ridden neck wound so severe that water spilled out of it  
58 when he drank. These abhorrent and abusive practices should have no place in the  
59 food industry of New York State. Banning the sale of products derived from the  
60 forced feeding of animals will make New York State a leader in the prevention of  
61 animal abuse.

62

63 **Fiscal Implications**

64 The fiscal implications to the State should be minimal. The State may realize  
65 increased patronage of businesses who show a commitment to serving responsibly  
66 sourced food products. Loss of tax revenue associated with products such as foie  
67 gras can be addressed through the offering of other products.

68

69 **Environmental Implications**

70 Animal rights advocates and those committed to eating and producing responsibly  
71 sourced food will support this bill. Businesses that sell or store force fed animal  
72 products will be forced to pursue other options, which is expensive and  
73 inconvenient since business owners will be expected to assume the cost. Animals  
74 will benefit from being responsibly and ethically raised.

75

76 **Effective Date**

77 The law will go into effect one year from the date of passage.