

Senate Bill No. 770

CHAPTER 351

An act to amend Section 61384 of the Food and Agricultural Code, relating to milk.

[Approved by Governor October 8, 2007. Filed with
Secretary of State October 8, 2007.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 770, Cogdill. Milk.

Existing law provides that the sale by any retailer, wholesale customer, manufacturer, or distributor, of milk, cream, or any dairy product at less than cost is an unlawful practice. Existing law defines certain terms as used in these provisions, including "total consideration paid or exchanged for raw product," which means, in the case of market milk or market cream, the applicable minimum price of the market milk or market cream, if any, payable by distributors to producers pursuant to stabilization or marketing plans, as specified.

This bill would change the definition of "total consideration paid or exchanged for raw product," in the case of market milk or market cream used in the manufacture of class 1, 2, and 3 products, to mean the Department of Food and Agriculture's current announced regulated minimum price of the market milk or market cream, payable by handlers to producers, except as specified. Because this bill would change the definition of a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 61384 of the Food and Agricultural Code is amended to read:

61384. (a) The sale by any retailer, wholesale customer, manufacturer, or distributor, including any producer-distributor or nonprofit cooperative association acting as a distributor, of milk, cream, or any dairy product at less than cost is an unlawful practice. This subdivision applies to finished products, and does not apply to sales of bulk milk between handlers.

(b) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) “Cost,” as applied to manufacturers and distributors, means the total consideration paid or exchanged for raw product, plus the total expense incurred for manufacturing, processing, handling, sale, and delivery.

(2) “Cost,” as applied to wholesale customers, means the invoice price charged to the wholesale customer, or the expense of replacement, whichever is lower, plus the wholesale customer’s cost of doing business.

(3) “Cost of doing business,” as applied to wholesale customers, means a wholesale customer’s total operating expense divided by the customer’s total sales income.

(4) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), “total consideration paid or exchanged for raw product,” in the case of market milk or market cream used in the manufacture of class 1, 2, and 3 products, means the department’s current announced regulated minimum price of the market milk or market cream, payable by handlers to producers, except as provided in Section 62708.5.

(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), in situations involving sales on a bid basis to public agencies or institutions, the definition in subparagraph (A) shall only apply to market milk or market cream that is utilized for class 1 purposes, as those purposes are defined in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 61801).

(c) Proof of cost, based on audits or surveys conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as defined by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Financial Accounting Standards Board, and modified, if necessary, to satisfy the requirements of this section, shall establish a rebuttable presumption of that cost at the time of the transaction of any sale. This presumption is a presumption affecting the burden of proof, but it does not apply in a criminal action.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prohibit any of the following activities:

(1) The meeting, in good faith, of a lawful competitive price or a lawful competitive condition.

(2) A distributor’s action in making conditional sales of equipment or other property, extending credit for merchandise purchased, or paying a customer’s obligations not otherwise prohibited by this chapter to another distributor in connection with the transfer of the customer’s business from the latter to the former.

(e) The secretary shall establish, by regulation pursuant to Section 61341, the procedures which shall be used to make the determinations required by this section, including the following:

(1) Any modifications to the generally accepted accounting principles described in subdivision (c) necessary to satisfy the requirements of this section.

(2) Procedures for evaluating efforts to meet lawful competitive prices or conditions.

(3) Other procedures necessary or appropriate to facilitate the application or enforcement of this section.

SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

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