

ANIMAL INDUSTRY ACT (EXCERPT)
Act 466 of 1988

287.744 Felonies; penalty; violation of act or rule as misdemeanor; costs and attorney fees; powers of director; failure to pay fine; civil action and penalties; remedies and sanctions as independent and cumulative powers of department.

Sec. 44. (1) A person who commits 1 or more of the following is guilty of a felony punishable by a fine of not less than \$1,000.00 and not more than \$50,000.00, or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both, and shall not receive any indemnification payments at the discretion of the director:

(a) Intentionally contaminating or exposing livestock to an infectious, contagious, or toxicological disease for the purpose of receiving indemnification from the state or causing the state to destroy affected livestock.

(b) Intentionally making a false statement on an application for indemnification or reimbursement from the state.

(c) Intentionally violating a condition of quarantine authorized under section 12 or movement restrictions and other requirements authorized under section 9.

(d) Intentionally importing into this state, without permission from the director, diseased livestock or livestock exposed to an infectious, contagious, or toxicological disease.

(e) Intentionally misrepresenting the health, medical status, or prior treatment for an infectious, contagious, or toxicological disease of livestock to facilitate movement or transfer of ownership to another person.

(f) Intentionally infecting or contaminating an animal with, or intentionally exposing an animal to, a reportable disease other than for bona fide research as approved by a research institution licensed by the state of Michigan or a federal agency.

(2) Except as otherwise provided under subsections (1) and (2), a person who violates this act, a rule promulgated under this act, a quarantine authorized under section 12, or movement restrictions and other requirements authorized under section 9 is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than \$300.00 or imprisonment of not less than 30 days, or both.

(3) The court may allow the department to recover reasonable costs and attorney fees incurred in a prosecution resulting in a conviction for a violation of subsections (1) and (2). Costs assessed and recovered under this subsection shall be paid to the state treasury and credited to the department for the enforcement of this act.

(4) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (1), the director, upon finding that a person has violated this act, a rule promulgated under this act, a quarantine authorized under section 12, or movement restrictions and other requirements authorized under section 9, may do the following:

(a) Issue a warning.

(b) Impose an administrative fine of not more than \$1,000.00 for each violation after notice and an opportunity for a hearing pursuant to the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328.

(c) Issue an appearance ticket as described and authorized by sections 9a to 9g of chapter 4 of the code of criminal procedure, 1927 PA 175, MCL 764.9a to 764.9g, with a fine of not less than \$300.00 or imprisonment of not less than 30 days, or both.

(5) The director shall advise the attorney general of the failure of any person to pay an administrative or civil fine imposed under this section. The attorney general shall bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover the fine and costs and fees including attorney fees. Civil penalties and administrative fines collected shall be paid to the state treasury.

(6) The remedies and sanctions under this act are independent and cumulative. The use of a remedy or sanction under this act does not bar other lawful remedies and sanctions and does not limit criminal or civil liability. Notwithstanding the provisions of this act, the department may bring an action to do 1 or more of the following:

(a) Obtain a declaratory judgment that a method, act, or practice is a violation of this act.

(b) Obtain an injunction against a person who is engaging, or about to engage, in a method, act, or practice that violates this act.

History: 1988, Act 466, Eff. Mar. 28, 1989;—Am. 1996, Act 369, Imd. Eff. July 3, 1996;—Am. 2000, Act 323, Imd. Eff. Oct. 31, 2000;—Am. 2002, Act 458, Imd. Eff. June 21, 2002.