ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION

BILL NO. 56-06

INTRODUCED BY: ABII-TAH  
SECONDED BY: GREEN

A BILL TO: Advocate and Negotiate for the consistent provision of Halal/Zabiha dietary options in Michigan State University’s Dining Halls.

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACT:

WHEREAS, Michigan State University Dining Halls currently serve excessive amounts of products which have been redlined by Islam, including but not limited to pork, pork by-products, alcohol, and non-halal/Zabiha meats; and

WHEREAS, ASMSU’s 2018 demographic report confirms that Muslim students make up about three percent of MSU’s student body\(^1\), meaning that approximately 1500 Spartans find it almost impossible to consume most meals, hence, sometimes resort to consuming non-halal/Zabiha products, thereby compromising their religious restrictions; and

WHEREAS, Michigan State University’s Residential and Hospitality Services refers Muslim students to the Kosher (Jewish) dining options whenever they seek Halal/Zabiha food; and

WHEREAS, Kosher and Muslim principles and dietary restrictions are not homogenous, and thus should not be treated as such, for example, alcohol (wine) is permissible in Kosher dietary options but is haram (forbidden) amongst Muslim; and

WHEREAS, Muslims students who have resorted to Kosher dietary options have been met with constant food shortage due to the density of Muslim and Jewish students (11% of the body) who feed on the option; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to AMSMU’s Anti-Discrimination Policy, this student government “promotes institutional diversity and pluralism through an over-arching strategy promoting equitable access to opportunity”\(^2\) – in this case, the opportunity to access religiously permissible dietary options; and

WHEREAS, Ensuring the availability of Halal/Zabiha food in at least one dining hall per neighborhood will mean a push for the physical, mental, and academic wellbeing of Muslim students.


students, especially those whose families are too far away to provide them food, or those who lack the resources to prepare their own meals; and

WHEREAS, The Muslim Student Association has expressed eagerness to work with ASMSU on advocating for the subsequent action clauses; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Associated Students of Michigan State University will join the Muslim Students Association to advocate and negotiate (with RHA’s diversity and inclusion department, and any other necessary institutions) for the constant provision of Halal/Zabiha food options in at least one dining hall at each neighborhood on MSU’s campus.

RESOLVED, That the said Halal/Zabiha meals will remain free of ingredients like pork, pork by-products, alcohol, every restriction described in Appendix A, as well as and meats which have not undergone the acceptable slaughtering process (the slaughter should be performed by a sane, adult Muslim individual who is knowledgeable of the instructions, the slaughter should be performed in the name of God, the suffering of the animal must be minimalized, each animal’s slaughter must be performed away from the sight of other animals, the tool for slaughter should be a non-serrated blade that is used to swiftly slit the large arteries in the neck along with the esophagus and trachea with one single swipe in order to drain the blood - which in itself is forbidden)

RESOLVED, That if the described meats are unavailable due to the utter and complete absence of appropriate slaughterers, permissible fish, and other seafood should be served on the quotidian as substitutes.

RESOLVED, That all meals served in the Halal section shall either be served in separate plates (that will be washed and stored separately), or in disposable containers, so as to prevent remains or crumbs of non-Halal ingredients from mixing into Halal/Zabiha food.

RESOLVED, That the Halal/Zabiha sections will uplift the same standards of inclusion upheld both by MSU and ASMSU and thus, shall indiscriminately be of service to all Spartans, be they Muslim or not.

RESOLVED, That any cost related charged placed upon the student body during the negotiations to provide Halal/Zabiha food will first be reported back to ASMSU’s General Assembly for further deliberation, before any final decisions are made.
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9-19-2019

PRESIDENT: Mario Kakos
VPIA: Nora Teagan

**Signature**: Mario Kakos
**Signature**: Nora Teagan
Appendix

Some Verses From The Qur’an That Describe Halal vs Haram (forbidden) foods and alcohol

He has only forbidden you what dies of itself, and blood, and flesh of swine, and that over which any other (name) than (that of) Allah has been invoked; but whoever is driven to necessity, not desiring, nor exceeding the limit, no sin shall be upon him; surely Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.
— Qur’an, Surah 2 (al-Baqarah)

Forbidden to you (for food) are: dead meat, blood, the flesh of swine, and that on which has been invoked the name of other than Allah; that which hath been killed by strangling, or by a violent blow, or by a headlong fall, or by being gored to death; that which hath been (partly) eaten by a wild animal; unless ye are able to slaughter it (in due form); that which is sacrificed on stone (altars); (forbidden) also is the division (of meat) by raffling with arrows: that is impiety. This day have those who reject faith given up all hope of your religion: yet fear them not but fear Me. This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed My favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion. But if any is forced by hunger, with no inclination to transgression, Allah is indeed Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful.
— Qur’an, Surah 5 (al-Ma’idah)

This day (all) the good things are allowed to you; and the food of those who have been given the Book is lawful for you and your food is lawful for them; and the chaste from among the believing women and the chaste from among those who have been given the Book before you (are lawful for you); when you have given them their dowries, taking (them) in marriage, not fornicating nor taking them for paramours in secret; and whoever denies faith, his work indeed is of no account, and in the hereafter he shall be one of the losers.
— Qur’an, Surah 5 (al-Ma’idah)

Therefore eat of that on which Allah's name has been mentioned if you are believers in His communications.
— Qur’an, Surah 6 (al-An’am)

Say: I do not find in that which has been revealed to me anything forbidden for an eater to eat of except that it be what has died of itself, or blood poured forth, or flesh of swine-- for that surely is unclean-- or that which is a transgression, other than (the name of) Allah having been invoked on it; but whoever is driven to necessity, not desiring nor exceeding the limit, then surely your Lord is Forgiving, Merciful.”
— Qur’an, Surah 6 (al-An’am)

He has only forbidden to you dead animals, blood, the flesh of swine, and that which has been dedicated to other than Allah. But whoever is forced [by necessity], neither desiring [it] nor transgressing [its limit] - then indeed, Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.
— Qur’an, Surah 16 (an-Nahl)
“O you who believe! Intoxicants (all kinds of alcoholic drinks), gambling, idolatry, and divining arrows are an abomination of Satan’s handiwork. So avoid that so that you may be successful. Satan only wants to cause between you animosity and hatred through intoxicants and gambling and to avert you from the remembrance of Allah and from prayer. So will you not desist?” — (Verses 90 and 91 of Surat Surat Al-Ma’idah).

The prohibition of alcohol in Islam is also based on a saying (Hadith) of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), in which he said “Whatever intoxicates in large quantities, a small quantity of it is forbidden.”