National Environmental Health Association

Food & Food Safety Enacted Legislation 2026

State legislatures introduced 288 bills related to food and food safety during the 2026 legislative sessions, with 95 bills being enacted in 25 states.

Legislatures covered issues such as manager certification, sanitary food preparation, cottage foods and food freedom, exempting non-profits from food regulations, food labeling, cell-based meats and imitation eggs, and accelerating the process to open retail food establishments.

NEHA tracked bills regarding food safety, food freedom, meats/eggs, retail and mobile foods.

Food Safety Enacted Legislation 2026

- 57 Bills Introduced
- 10 Enacted in HI, IL, NE, NJ, TN, UT

Hawaii SB 3320, Act No. 2026-187 – Food and Product Innovation Network

This bill addresses the Food and Product Innovation Network established within the Agribusiness Development Corporation. New statutory provisions are added governing food safety and regulatory framework integration, performance accountability, market access coordination, state branding alignment, and economic data reporting. The bill also appropriates $2,800,000 for network operations in fiscal year 2026-2027.

Illinois SB 1288, P.A. No. 90 – Food Handling Regulation; Gluten Allergy Awareness

Amends the Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act; adds, in provisions regarding allergen awareness training, the understanding gluten, including sources of gluten, symptoms of gluten intolerance and celiac disease, the importance of gluten-free food preparation and handling, and proper cleaning methods to prevent gluten contamination.

Illinois SB 2774, P.A. No. 632-2026 – Sanitary Food Preparation Act

This bill amends the Sanitary Food Preparation Act to bring meal kit and ready-to-eat meal distribution facilities under its provisions. It establishes requirements for temperature control, food safety inspections, labeling, delivery timelines, and consumer-facing transparency for these facilities.

Nebraska LB 245 – Pure Food Act

Provides that no person shall operate without a valid permit a food establishment, food processing plant, or a salvage operation; specifies permit fees; specifies the entities that are exempt from certain requirements, including any educational institution, health care facility, nursing home, or governmental organization; provides that if any entity utilizes an outside food service provider, such provider shall pay any applicable fee.

New Jersey SB 3608, Chap. No. 2024-95 - Outdoor or Public Sidewalks Food and Beverage Sales

Provides that following the issuance of a special ruling or adoption of regulations, the Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control shall issue to the holder of a beverage manufacturer or retail consumption license a premises expansion permit; provides that application for the permit shall be made on annually; provides that the permit shall entitle the license holder to expand the licensed premises to non-contiguous property, provided that, among other things, the holder establishes safeguards.

Tennessee SB 1282, Chap. No. 400-2026 – Food and Food Product

Provides that the commissioner of health shall set the permit fee by rule, promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5, for each of the following to operate a food service establishment, an auxiliary food service operation, as a temporary food service establishment.

Utah HB 172, Chap. No. 068 – Food Safety Manager Certification Amendments

This bill, known as Food Safety Amendments, amends provisions related to food safety in Utah. The bill modifies exemptions from food service establishment requirements and changes the certification renewal period for food safety managers from three years to five years.

Food Freedom State Legislation 2026 Session

- 121 Bills Introduced on Unregulated Foods in 2026
- 26 Enacted in CO, HI, ID, IN, KS, LA, MD, MI, NE, NH, NY, OK, TN, UT, VA, VT, WV

Colorado HB 1033, Chap. No. 375-2026 – Expanding the Cottage Foods Act (Tamale Act)

The Tamale Act amends the Colorado Cottage Foods Act to permit home kitchen producers to sell packaged foods that require time and temperature control for safety, such as tamales, burritos, and tortas, in addition to non-potentially hazardous foods. The bill also raises the annual gross revenue cap for producers, establishes a mandatory producer registration system, and creates the Cottage Foods Cash Fund to support program administration.

Hawaii SB 3302, Act No. 110-2026 – Homemade Food Products

This bill addresses the regulation of farm kitchens located on agricultural land that produce homemade food products. The bill requires the Department of Health to adopt rules authorizing and regulating farm kitchens on the same basis as home kitchens under existing homemade food product regulations.

Idaho SB 1283, Chap. No. 91-2026 – Agricultural Products, Direct-to-Consumer Commerce Act

This bill establishes a regulatory framework for the direct sale of homemade food and nonalcoholic drink products from producers to consumers within Idaho. The bill creates a new chapter in Idaho Code that facilitates these transactions with minimal regulatory burden while providing consumer protections through labeling and record-keeping requirements. The bill also amends various existing agricultural and food safety statutes to provide exemptions for operations conducted under this new direct-to-consumer framework.

Indiana HB 1424, P.L. No. 163-2026 - Farm and Homestead Food Sales

This bill addresses food establishment regulations in Indiana by creating exemptions for small-scale food producers. The bill establishes new categories of "homestead vendors" and "small farms" with annual gross sales limits of $1.5 million, exempting them from standard food establishment licensing and inspection requirements. The bill proposes specific regulations for these community producers, including labeling requirements, permitted sales locations, and food safety standards.

Louisiana HB 403, Act No. 801-2026 – Small Business

Provides for the production of homemade food for sale to the public; modifies the gross sale amount to qualify for low-risk homemade food exemption to the Sanitary Code and other food safety laws.

Raises the maximum annual gross sales for low-risk, homemade foods from $30,000 to $100,000 before a producer loses exemptions from standard Sanitary Code food safety regulations. Continues to allow small-scale producers to manufacture and sell eligible homemade food items directly to the public without full commercial kitchen licensing.

Maryland HB 535, Chap. No. 320-2026 - Cottage Food Business

This bill addresses cottage food businesses in Maryland. The bill modifies the maximum amount of annual revenue a business may generate from the sale of cottage food products to be considered a cottage food business. The bill also reenacts existing definitions and requirements for cottage food businesses and cottage food products.

Michigan HB 4122, P.A. No. 51-2026 – Cottage Food Operations

Codifies the licensure and regulation of certain persons engaged in processing, manufacturing, production, packing, preparing, repacking, canning, preserving, freezing, fabricating, storing, selling, serving, or offering for sale food or drink for human consumption; modifies certain requirements for cottage food operations and cottage food products.

Michigan HB 4493, P.A. No. 43-2026 – Licensure Exemptions

Provides that if food is prepared in a food service establishment licensed under this chapter and the food is transported from the food service establishment to a fixed temporary serving location, the serving location is not required to be separately licensed and is considered an extension of the food service establishment if no food preparation is conducted at the serving location and the food is transported and served by employees of the food service establishment.

Michigan SB 93, P.A. No. 42-2026 – Food Processors

Codifies the licensure and regulation of certain persons engaged in processing, manufacturing, production, packing, preparing, repacking, canning, preserving, freezing, fabricating, storing, selling, serving, or offering for sale food or drink for human consumption; regulates the labeling, manufacture, distribution, and sale of food for protection of the consuming public and to prevent fraud and deception by prohibiting the misbranding, adulteration, manufacture, distribution, and sale of foods.

New Hampshire HB 304, Chap. No. 28-2026 – Food Produced in Homestead Kitchens

Relates to labeling requirements for food produced in homestead kitchens; provides that all homestead food products sold in packages from farmers markets or to restaurants or other retail food establishments, over the Internet, by mail order, or to wholesalers, brokers, or other food distributors who will resell the homestead product, shall have individual labels on each package containing the specified information, including the physical or email address and phone number of the homestead food operation.

New Hampshire HB 307, Chap. No. 46-2026 – Food Production Area for Homestead Food

Allows homestead food production in a food production area; defines homestead food operation and handwashing; defines equipment and food storage as an area that allows for food, equipment, and utensils to be stored in a manner that prevents contamination; defines food contact surfaces, general sanitation, and pet exclusion; provides for homestead food products sold in packages from the home or farm stand, at farmers markets, or at retail food stores; provides for packaging and labeling requirements.

New Hampshire HB 505, Chap. No. 193-2026 – Sale of Freeze Dried Foods Produced in Homestead Food

Allows the sale of freeze-dried foods produced in homestead food operations.

New York SB 4911, Chap. No. 424-2026 – Processors of Syrup Made from Tree Sap or Honey

Exempts processors of syrup made from tree sap or honey who do not purchase syrup made from tree sap or honey from others for repackaging, and who do not combine syrup made from tree sap or honey with any other ingredients capable of supporting the growth of infectious or toxigenic organisms from certain licensing requirements for food processing establishments.

Oklahoma HB 1076, Chap. No. 19-2026 – Public Health and Safety (Food Truck Freedom Act)

Relates to public health and safety; creates the Food Truck Freedom Act; authorizes the State Commissioner of Health to promulgate rules; authorizes local authorities to regulate mobile food vendors; allows administrative hearing upon suspension or revocation of certain license; establishes penalties; relates to food establishment license, exemptions, expiration license, fee-exempt license, reasonable standards and rules for sanitation; allowing mobile food vendors to operate in certain locations.

Oklahoma SB 2028, Chap. No. 281-2026 - Oklahoma Milk and Milk Products Act

This bill amends the Oklahoma Milk and Milk Products Act to address the regulation of raw milk and raw milk products. The bill raises the monthly cap on direct raw milk sales from 100 gallons to 1,500 gallons per producer, modifies violation provisions, establishes warning label requirements for raw milk containers, and changes provisions related to incidental sales of ungraded raw milk. The bill also authorizes the Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry to develop rules and warning labels for raw milk products.

Oklahoma HB 3720, Chap. No. 182-2026 – Access to Healthy Local Food Act (Local Food Freedom Act)

This bill amends Oklahoma's existing food freedom legislation by renaming and modifying the Homemade Food Freedom Act. The bill updates definitions, modifies exemptions from state licensing requirements for local food establishments, and changes disclosure requirements for food products sold under the act.

Tennessee HB 2020, Chap. No. 754-2026 – Department of Health

Removes certain listed nonprofits from the definition of food service establishment without regard to whether volunteer personnel for such listed nonprofits prepared, served, transported, or stored the food on consecutive or nonconsecutive days.

Utah HB 379, Chap. No. 195-2026 – Child Care Provider Food Preparation Amendments

This bill proposes to amend provisions related to food safety and sanitation for child care providers. The bill creates exemptions from food service establishment regulations for child care food preparation kitchens under certain circumstances. The bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to collaborate with child care provider associations to establish rules for food safety, sanitation, and qualification for exemptions.

Utah SB 217, Chap. No. 443-2026 – Local Food Amendments

This bill addresses provisions related to locally-produced foods. The bill removes signage requirements for direct-to-sale farmers markets, clarifies when producers or designated representatives may sell homemade food products, and exempts food sold by home cooks from state sales tax.

Virginia HB 402, Chap. No. 605-2026 – Cottage Food Laws

This bill amends cottage food laws in Virginia relating to the sale of certain foods over phone and internet. The bill modifies how home-based food producers can sell specific food products and establishes a work group to examine standards for home food processing operations. The bill also requires a report on findings and recommendations regarding structural, equipment, and facility standards for private homes producing certain food products.

Vermont HB 401, Act No. 42-2026 – Food Manufacturing Establishments

Relates to exemptions for food manufacturing establishments; changes rules for small home food makers by raising the sales limit, creating cottage food definitions, and requiring safety training. It exempts home kitchens making non-perishable foods with $30,000 or less in yearly sales from standard licensing fees.

West Virginia SB 44, Act No. 76-2026 – Homemade Food Items Sale

This bill creates a regulatory framework for cottage foods in West Virginia by adding a new article to the state code. The bill addresses the production and sale of homemade food items, establishing definitions, permit requirements, and regulatory oversight. The bill distinguishes between potentially hazardous and non-potentially hazardous cottage foods and assigns regulatory authority to the Department of Agriculture.

Meat/Egg Enacted Legislation 2026

- 52 Introduced in 2026
- 17 Enacted in AK, HI, ID, LA, ME, MS, NE, NH, OH, OK, SC, TN, VA

Hawaii HB 534, Act No. 2025-238 - Labeling of Ahi

Prohibits the sale of raw processed ahi at State retail establishments without a label stating the country in which the ahi was landed; provides that no retail establishment shall keep, offer, display, expose for sale, or solicit for the sale of any raw processed ahi without a label stating the country in which the ahi was landed.

Hawaii HB 1334, Act No. 2026-166 – Deer Meat Donation

This bill establishes an axis deer meat donation pilot program in Hawaii, allowing hunters to donate meat or meat products derived from axis deer (Axis axis) to charitable, religious, or nonprofit organizations for the purpose of feeding those in need. The bill amends Chapter 159 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to create exemptions from standard meat inspection requirements for axis deer donations made pursuant to the program. The pilot program is operative on a specific island and is set to sunset on June 30, 2033.

Idaho SB 1270, Chap. No. 247 – Labeling of Cell-Cultivated Animal Protein Products

This bill addresses labeling requirements for cell-cultivated animal protein products in Idaho. The bill creates a new chapter in Idaho Code establishing mandatory labeling standards for products such as lab-grown meat, cultivated meat, or cell-cultured meat. The bill provides regulatory oversight authority to the Idaho Department of Agriculture and establishes penalties for non-compliance.

Louisiana SB 152, Act No. 742 – Banning of Cell-Cultured Food

This bill enacts a new part of Louisiana law prohibiting the manufacture, distribution, sale, or offer for sale of cell cultured food products for human consumption in the state. A "cell cultured food product" is defined as any cultured animal tissue produced from in vitro animal cell cultures outside of the organism from which it is derived. The bill also establishes penalties for violations and provides a conditional effectiveness clause tied to a future U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

Mississippi HB 1153 – Meat and Cell-Cultured Dairy Products

This bill proposes to amend Mississippi's food labeling laws to regulate the manufacture, sale, and labeling of meat alternatives and cell-cultured dairy products. The bill prohibits the sale of cell-cultured dairy products in Mississippi and requires proper labeling of manufactured-protein food products to prevent misbranding as traditional meat products. The bill also strengthens enforcement mechanisms for the Mississippi Department of

Agriculture and Commerce and requires state institutions to adopt procurement policies preventing purchase of misbranded or cultivated-protein food products.

Nebraska LB 246 – Pure Food Act; Cell Cultured Meat

Prohibits certain conduct related to adulterated food including cultivated-protein food products under the Nebraska Pure Food Act; provides a deceptive trade practice; harmonizes provisions.

New Hampshire HR 18 - United States Department of Agriculture

Urges the State congressional delegation to sponsor legislation about and urges the United States Department of Agriculture to adopt regulations allowing small-scale and very small slaughter plants to allow certain inspection criteria to be used to enable the sale of processed beef, pork, lamb, and goat meat from farm to the end consumer.

Ohio HB 10, Sess. Law No. 38 – Imitation Meat and Egg Products

Regulates imitation meat and egg products and to revise various agriculture laws.

South Carolina SB 103, Act No. 14 – Prohibition Against Misleading or Deceptive Practices

Relates to the prohibition against misleading or deceptive practices; relates to labeling or misrepresenting products that are cell cultured meats; defines artificial or cell cultivated food product; requires the accurate labeling of cell cultivated food products; provides that no person who advertises, manufactures, sells, or holds or offers for sale any artificial or cell cultivated food product in the State shall engage in a misleading or deceptive practice.

Tennessee SB 2652, Chap. No. 874 – Livestock Raised in State

This bill creates a voluntary program for promoting meat and byproducts from livestock raised in Tennessee through appropriate labeling. The program applies to animals that are born, raised, and harvested in Tennessee for human consumption, including cattle, sheep, swine, goats, and poultry. The department must develop rules to implement the program and ensure all labels comply with USDA food safety requirements.

Virginia HB 322, Chap. No. 107 – Misbranded Foods

This bill addresses misbranded meat food products by regulating how manufactured-protein food products may be labeled when they contain identifying meat terms. The bill requires conspicuous qualifying terms such as "plant-based," "lab-grown," or "fake" when manufactured-protein products are labeled as meat food products or poultry products. The bill establishes civil penalties for violations and adds these violations to existing consumer protection laws.

Virginia SB 186, Chap. No. 108 – Misbranded Foods

This bill addresses misbranded meat food products by prohibiting the sale of manufactured-protein food products that are labeled as meat or poultry products without conspicuous qualifying terms. The bill establishes civil penalties for violations and adds this violation to the list of prohibited practices under consumer protection law.

Retail and Mobile Foods

- 58 Introduced
- 13 Enacted in CA, HI, IL, LA, MD, NE, NJ, OK, UT, VA

California AB 592, Chap. No. 2025-469 – Business: Retail Foods

Authorizes a restaurant to operate using open windows, folding doors, or nonfixed store fronts during hours of operation if the restaurant develops, and submits to the enforcement agency for approval, an integrated pest management and food safety risk mitigation plan and meets certain requirements. Requires the plan to be documented in writing, made available upon request to local environmental health enforcement officers, and updated annually or whenever there is a change to the facility or operation.

California AB 671, Chap. No. 2025-470 – Accelerated Restaurant Building Approval

Establishes a streamlined approval process for a local permit for a tenant improvement relating to a restaurant. Authorizes the applicant to resubmit corrected plans addressing the deficiencies identified in the initial denial, would limit the local building department's review of each subsequent resubmission to the deficiencies identified in the initial denial, and would require the local building department to approve or deny each subsequent resubmission within 10 business days of receipt.

California SB 635, Chap. No. 2025-463 – Food Vendors and Facilities: Enforcement Activities

Prohibits a local authority from providing voluntary consent to any individual to access, review, or obtain certain records of the local authority that include personally identifiable information of any sidewalk vendors in the jurisdiction without a subpoena or judicial warrant. Prohibits a local authority and its personnel from disclosing or providing in writing, verbally, or in any other manner personally identifiable information of any sidewalk vendor that is requested except subpoena.

Louisiana SB 23, Act No. 231 – Sanitary Code

Provides for an additional exemption to the definition of food service establishment; “food service establishment" shall not include an adult residential care provider.

Maryland SB 714, Chap. No. 350 – Mobile Food Service Facilities

This bill exempts mobile food service facilities and semipermanent food service facilities located in Washington County from the requirement that a food service facility have a lavatory and toilet. The bill modifies definitions in the Health-General Article and creates county-specific exemptions from sanitation facility requirements.

Michigan HB 4042, P.A. No. 89 – Food Service Establishments

This bill amends the Michigan Food Law of 2000 by revising the definitions section governing the licensure and regulation of persons engaged in processing, manufacturing, storing, selling, or serving food or drink for human consumption. The bill sets forth definitions for terms used throughout the act, including terms such as 'food establishment,' 'food processor,' 'food service establishment,' 'food warehouse,' 'farmers' market,' and 'evaluation.'

Oklahoma HB 2459 – Fire Suppression at Mobile Food Facilities

Relates to fire suppression; relates to mobile food establishments, fire extinguisher, and inspection; directs compliance with current adopted codes; provides exception for certain extinguishing systems; deletes certain annual inspection requirement; providing for inspections; provides for the expiration of certain provisions; requiring compliance with certain codes; provides sole authority to the Fire Marshal; provides for the issuance of operational permit decals.

Virginia HB 380, Chap. No. 126 – Celiac Disease

Relates to State Health Commissioner; relates to training materials for restaurant personnel; relates to celiac disease; directs the State Health Commissioner to add celiac disease awareness and safety to the topics included in written materials provided for the training of restaurant personnel.