

2025 State Food Safety Enacted Legislation

August 2025

State legislatures introduced more than 350 bills related to food safety during the 2025 legislative sessions, with 73 being enacted as of August 2025.

Food Safety

Legislatures enacted 12 bills directly related to food safety and state food safety agencies.

Colorado enacted HB 1059 (Food Waste Reduction, Chap. No. 77-2025) and SB 285 (Food Establishment Inspection Fees, Chap. No. 296-2025). HB 1059 encourages local education agencies to adopt a policy to reduce food waste in school cafeterias and food preparation facilities. It also allows for food waste diversion and aversion initiatives, including composting and share tables that permit students to return whole food or beverage items for redistribution to other students or donation to local nonprofits. SB 285 updates the ongoing schedule of annual fees imposed on retail food establishments and provides that such fees are imposed to cover the cost of required health and safety inspections under current law. This law requires that a certain amount of fees shall be credited to the Food Protection Cash Fund.

Idaho HB 202 (Chap. No. 47-2025) addresses food processing. The bill provides that the Department of Agriculture enforce stop sale, use, or removal orders to the distributor or owner of adulterated produce that is misbranded as to be dangerous or fraudulent. The law provides that the department may hold any produce found to be in violation until it is in compliance with the law.

Indiana HB 1577 (Mobile Retail Food Establishment Licenses, Pub. Law 235-2025) creates a statewide mobile retail food establishment license issued by a local health department to the owner or operator of a mobile retail food establishment that meets the licensing standards established by the state department. The law establishes standards for licensure and inspection of mobile retail food establishments by a local health department, including standards for a necessary inspection following a violation or failed inspection.

Maryland SB 162 (Chap. No. 360-2025) repeals the Department of Agriculture's authority over the identification, inspection, and sale of cantaloupes.

In Nebraska, L 245 relates to the State Pure Food Act and the Weights and Measures Act. This bill provides that no person shall operate without a valid permit a food establishment, food processing plant, or a salvage

operation, as well as specifies permit fees. Certain entities are exempt, including any educational institution, healthcare facility, nursing home, or governmental organization. The law provides that if any entity utilizes an outside food service provider, that provider must pay applicable fees.

The Nevada legislature enacted SB 466, which transfers the authority to regulate and permit food establishments from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health within of the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture was given the authority to adopt, amend, and enforce regulations to provide for the sanitary protection of water and food supplies. This bill means that the Department of Health and Human Services no longer regulates food establishments. Texas SB 1008 provides for permits, licenses, or certifications of food service establishments, retail food stores, mobile food units, roadside food vendors, or temporary food service establishments. The law establishes county, municipality, and public health district fee schedules. The bill regulates serving food at workplaces and food manager certificates. Texas HB 2844 relates to the regulation of mobile food service establishments, including retail food stores and mobile food vendors. The law requires an occupational license and imposes fees.

Utah amended its Agriculture and Food Law (HB 253-2025). This bill changes the Fertilizer Act to the Plant Food Act and includes modifying definitions and makes conforming references. Further, the bill modifies information to be provided to operate a livestock market; amends the Domesticated Elk Act to address licensing, record retention, health information, and the marking of domesticated elk; and modifies the earmarking of sales and use taxes related to the Division of Conservation within the Department of Agriculture and Food.

Meat

Legislatures introduced 303 bills related to meat products in 2025, ranging from finfish farms and cultivated meats to insects for human consumption and octopus aquaculture. Approximately 10% of these bills were enacted in 21 states.

Alabama HB 1 (Act 445-2025) increases the seafood dealer licensure fee to promote seafood products from the state.

Hawaii HB 534 (Act 238-2025) prohibits the sale of raw processed ahi at retail establishments without a label stating the country where the ahi was landed. The Hawaii legislature also looked at the state's deer population. Hawaii HCR 200, SCR 94, and SR 77 urges the Department of Agriculture to take further meaningful action to address the axis deer overpopulation.



In Louisiana, the legislature adopted three measures regarding imported shrimp. HCR 8 requests the Food and Drug Administration to increase inspection and testing of imported seafood. HR 152 and HR 214 requests the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to study the negative health impacts of imported shrimp. HCR 30 urges the commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry to study and make recommendations on the Processing Revival and Intrastate Meat Exemption Act to enhance operations for small meat processing businesses in Louisiana.

Maine SB 80 (Pub. Law 82-2025) creates a limited retail seafood harvester certificate. This bill allows the holder of a limited retail seafood harvester certificate to sell, transport, and serve shellstock (raw, in-shell molluscan shellfish) taken by the primary owner as long as the primary owner meets certain qualifications. SB 487 (Resolve No. 41-2025) directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry to assess its current meat and poultry inspection programs.

The Mississippi legislature enacted two bills on labeling. HB 602 makes country of origin labeling laws applicable to crawfish and seafood. The law requires that country designations must be provided on any crawfish or seafood label, menu, sales display, or other advertisement. The bill requires suppliers of crawfish and seafood to maintain certain records. The Department of Agriculture and Commerce and the Department of Marine Resources have regulatory authority over labeling. The bill also establishes the State Seafood Marketing Task Force. HB 913 provides for labeling requirements for meat and meat substitute products—including cell-cultured meats—in an effort to prevent consumer confusion.

Montana's HB 401 (Chap. No. 276-2025) addresses the sale of lab-grown meat. The bill prohibits the sale or distribution of cell-cultured meats, and provides that a retail food establishment that sells or distributes cell-cultured meat products is subject to disciplinary action. SB 78 (Chap No. 22-2025) relates to the inspection and marking of hides and meat of slaughtered animals. The bill requires state inspectors to issue a certificate of inspection and attach it to the inspector's certificate sent to the county clerk and recorder. HJR 34 supports Montana's beef producers. SB 161 relates to Montana's aquaculture industry and provides for the regulation of aquaculture. It states that commodities in liquid form may be sold only by liquid measure or by weight, and commodities not in liquid form may be sold only by weight, by measure of length or area, or by count.

Nevada AB 251 (Chap. No. 416-2025) revises provisions governing custom processing establishments and mobile processing units for certain purposes relating to the inspection of meat and poultry.

New Hampshire HR 18 urges the U.S. Department of Agriculture to adopt regulations that permit small-scale slaughter plants to allow certain inspection criteria to be used to enable the sale of processed beef, pork, lamb, and goat meat from farms to the end consumer.



North Dakota's HB 1151 (Chap. No. 503-2025) deals with cell-cultured proteins. The bill provides for a legislative management study about the regulation of cell-cultured proteins, including an analysis of litigation in other states and of the regulatory landscape, partner impacts, and the feasibility of adopting a prohibition on cell-cultured protein in the state.

Oklahoma's SB 777 (Chap. No. 166-2025) relates to the commingling of commercial aquatic species with wild ones. The bill authorizes the Department of Wildlife Conservation to manage commercial transactions of wild aquatic animals. Further, it enables the Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry to assess certain import fees, requiring each shipment to possess certain certificates.

Oregon's SB 809 (Chap. No. 00035-2025) clarifies that the State Department of Agriculture may inspect poultry products under the state meat inspection program.

South Carolina enacted SB 103 (Act 14-2025) relates to the labeling or misrepresenting of products that are cell-cultured meats and requires the labeling of cell-cultivated food products.

South Dakota's HB 1022 (Chap. No. 168-2025) addresses cell-cultivated proteins. The bill prohibits the misbranding of any carcass, part thereof, or meat food product of any cell-cultured protein product. A label is false or misleading if it contains any cell-cultured proteins and does not clearly state prominently and conspicuously the words "cell-cultured" or "lab-grown" in a type of uniform size and prominence immediately adjacent to the name of the food on the label.

The Tennessee legislature expanded its Meat Inspection Act. SB 1265 (Chap. No. 463-2025) and creates a federally-recognized State Meat Inspection Program under the Department of Agriculture to increase production capacity for unadulterated and properly branded meat and meat food products. The bill states that establishments and persons are ineligible for inspection services unless they have obtained a valid license from the Commissioner of Agriculture.

Texas passed two bills related to oysters. HB 609 (Chap. No. 550-2025) relates to the cleaning of a structure used to grow oysters for cultivated oyster mariculture, as does SB 261 (Chap. No. 968-2025).

Utah HB 138 (Chap. No. 79-2025) requires labeling of food containing cultivated meat products and the labeling of food containing plant or insect-based meat substitutes. The bill provides that a food establishment shall notify the Department of Agriculture and Food whether the food establishment plans to sell, hold, offer for sale, or distribute a cultivated meat product or a plant or insect-based meat substitute.



West Virginia's SB 369 (Select Plant-Based Derivative and Derivative Products Act, Act 171-2025) authorizes the Department of Agriculture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to the inspection of meat and poultry.

Wyoming's SB 84 (Chap. No. 84-2025) authorizes country of origin labeling for beef that is a product of the U.S.

Food Freedom and Raw Milk

Exemptions from food regulatory oversight remains popular among state legislatures. A total of 73 bills in 35 states and Puerto Rico were introduced covering some aspect of food freedom, mainly to provide food producers relief from regulatory oversight. The sale of raw unpasteurized milk was also popular, with 25 bills being introduced to expand the sale and use of raw milk, although certain bills sought to regulate sales. Overall, eight bills were enacted on food freedom and three bills were enacted on raw milk.

Arkansas HB 1048 (Act 125-2025) amends current law concerning the incidental sale of goat milk, sheep milk, and whole milk that has not been pasteurized. The bill clarifies that the incidental sale of raw milk is not limited to a sale on the farm and ensures that regulations do not prohibit incidental sales of these different types of milk that have not been pasteurized directly to consumers at the farm where the milk is produced, at a farmers market, or via delivery from the farm where the milk is produced.

North Dakota HB 1131 (Chap. No. 83-2025) establishes that a farmer may sell raw milk to a consumer but may not sell to a wholesaler or retail store. Dairy farmers cannot sell outside the state and cannot donate raw milk. Raw milk must be labeled.

The New Hampshire legislature enacted three bills related to food freedom. HB 304 (Chap. No. 28-2025) and HB 307 (Chap. No. 46-2025) relate to foods produced in homestead kitchens. HB 304 mandates labeling for all foods produced in homestead kitchens, including the physical or email address and phone number of the homestead food operation. HB 307 addresses health and sanitation requirements for homestead food production. This bill defines homestead food operations and regulates food contact surfaces, general sanitation, and pet exclusion. The bill allows for homestead food products to be sold in packages from the home or a farm stand, at a farmers market, or at a retail food store. Further, the bill provides for packaging and labeling requirements. HB 505 (Chap. No. 193-2025) allows the sale of freeze-dried foods produced in homestead food operations.



Nevada enacted AB 352 (Chap. No. 420-2025), which revises and reorganizes certain provisions governing cottage food establishments. The bill requires a person who wishes to conduct a cottage food operation to apply for a license to the Department of Agriculture. The bill also addresses cottage cosmetic operations, allowing for the sale of cosmetics via telephone or the internet. The bill requires a cottage cosmetics operation to apply to the state Department of Agriculture for a license.

The Oklahoma legislature enacted HB 1076. This bill creates the Food Truck Freedom Act and authorizes the state commissioner of health and local authorities to regulate mobile food vendors.

Texas SB 541 (Chap. No. 303-2025) provides that a local government authority, including a local health department, may not employ or continue to employ a person who knowingly requires or attempts to require a cottage food production operation to obtain a license or permit.

Utah HB 414 (Chap. No. 58-2025) regulates raw milk. This bill directs the Department of Agriculture and Food to make rules regarding raw milk testing at third-party laboratories, addresses epidemiological investigations, when and how testing occurs, and sets forth requirements for cease and desist orders. SB 315 (Chap. No. 487-2025) modifies the sanitation and food safety standards for microenterprise home kitchens. Vermont HB 401 (Chap. No. 42-2025) relates to exemptions for food manufacturing establishments and requires training to ensure cleanliness, sanitation, and healthfulness.

In Wyoming, SB 120 (Chap. No. 43-2025) provides for the sale of producer-raised, homemade meat products. This bill allows a producer to sell meat products from cattle, sheep, swine, or goats raised by the producer that were slaughtered on the premises of the producer or at a custom slaughter facility if the meat products are produced from animals that are raised, slaughtered, processed, and sold in the state. Consumers must be warned that this meat has not been inspected by state or federal inspectors.

Retail Foods

Legislatures introduced 55 bills related to retail foods in 21 states, enacting 10 of these bills.

Bills on mobile food trucks were enacted in Colorado, Indiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. Colorado HB 1295 (Chap. No. 214-2025) defines a mobile food establishment. The bill primarily establishes reciprocity for licenses and permits between local government jurisdictions for business, health, and fire department licenses.



Indiana HB 1577 (Pub. Law 235-2025) establishes standards for licensure and inspection of a mobile retail food establishment by a local health department, including standards for a necessary inspection following a violation or failed inspection.

Oklahoma's HB 1076 (Food Freedom Truck Act, Chap. No. 19-2025) establishes a single, statewide permit for mobile food vendors to operate within the state while ensuring compliance with health and safety standards. Once the state food establishment license is recognized, a vendor may operate at any location permitted by the local authority, including private properties. HB 2459 requires mobile food units to keep fire extinguishers on site and to follow Oklahoma fire regulations.

Texas HB 2844 (Regulation of Mobile Food Vendors, Chap. No. 744-2025) goes beyond just mobile food trucks and covers retail food stores, as well as provides exemptions for small-scale food producers of less than \$1.5 million in sales from regulatory oversight.

Other retail food bills included:

Colorado's SB 285 (Chap. No. 296-2025) updated the ongoing schedule of annual fees imposed on retail food establishments. The bill provides that such fees are imposed to cover the cost of required health and safety inspections under current law and that a certain amount of certain fees shall be credited to the Food Protection Cash Fund.

The Nebraska legislature enacted L 245, which amends the state's Pure Foods Act. The bill provides that no person shall operate a food establishment or food processing plant without a valid permit. The legislature specifically exempted educational institutions, healthcare facilities, nursing homes, and governmental organizations from the act. The bill adds that if any entity uses an outside food service provider, such provider shall pay any applicable fee.

Nevada SB 466 transfers the authority to regulate and permit food establishments from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health within the Department of Health and Human Services to the State Department of Agriculture. This transfer includes the authority of the state Department of Agriculture to adopt, amend, and enforce regulations to provide for the sanitary protection of water and food supplies in retail food establishments.

Food Additives

Legislatures in 17 states introduced 103 bills during the 2025 legislative sessions targeting food dyes and chemicals, soda and candy purchases through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP),



nutrition education, bans on ultra-processed foods, and requirements on minimum amounts of physical activity in schools. Although there were Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) type bills in blue states like California and Massachusetts, the vast majority came from predominantly Republican-dominated red states. Of these 103 bills, 8 were enacted in five states: Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Arkansas SB 9 (Act No. 622-2025) creates the Make Arkansas Healthy Again Act and prohibits the manufacturing or selling of a food product for human consumption that contains potassium bromate, propylparaben, and erythrosine (also known as Red No. 3), all of which are commonly found in various food products.

Louisiana SB 14 (Act No. 463-2025) prohibits schools from serving foods with artificial dyes and preservatives. The bill requires physicians, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses to complete continuing education on nutrition and metabolic health. It also requires food manufacturers to label products (using a special QR code) for foods that contain any of 44 specified ingredients, including specific colors, additives, or chemicals. The bill requires disclaimer signs to be posted at restaurants that use certain seed oils. The state is also exploring waivers for the SNAP program to ban the purchase of unhealthy items. Texas SB 25 (Chap. No. 1179-2025) relates to health and nutrition standards to promote healthy living, including requirements for food labeling. The law mandates warning labels on food products sold in Texas that contain specific ingredients, provided these ingredients are required by the Food and Drug Administration to be disclosed and that the food is intended for human consumption. The goal is to educate consumers and enable them to make healthier dietary choices.

Utah followed a similar approach, with HB 402 (Chap. No. 466-2025) addressing chemicals in school lunches. HB 402 prohibits public schools from serving food with certain synthetic dyes and additives beginning in the 2026–2027 school year. Additives banned by the bill include potassium bromate, propylparaben, and artificial colorings like Blue No. 1 and 2, Green No. 3, Red No. 3 and 40, and Yellow No. 5 and 6.

The Virginia legislation enacted two bills related to nutrition in schools: HB 1910 and SB 1289. HB 1910 (Chap. No. 212-2025) relates to school nutritional requirements and includes a ban on seven color additives. SB 1289 (Chap. No. 222-2025) relates to nutritional standards for school meals and other foods, as well as prohibits certain color additives.

West Virginia enacted one of the most far-reaching bills, HB 2354 (Act No. 211-2025). The bill bans seven food dyes in school food by 2027 and bans them statewide in 2028. These bans include butylated



hydroxyanisole, propylparaben, FD and C Blue No. 1 and 2, Green No. 3, Red No. 3 and 40, and Yellow No. 5 and 6.

The bills banning food dyes and chemicals in school meals, requiring restaurant signage if they serve certain foods, mandating food labeling, and requiring continuing education requirements for medical professionals reflect a broader effort toward state-level food safety regulation that are not directed by the public health community but by people concerned with health in this country. Their efforts are leading states to act regardless of federal activities, placing burdens on the food industry to respond to these requests.

