

H.B. No. 970

## AN ACT

relating to regulation of cottage food products and cottage food production operations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 437.001, Health and Safety Code, is amended by amending Subdivisions (2-a) and (2-b) and adding Subdivision (3-b) to read as follows:

(2-a) "Baked good" includes cookies, cakes, breads, Danish, donuts, pastries, pies, and other items that are prepared by baking the item in an oven. [~~A baked good does not include a potentially hazardous food item as defined by department rule.~~]

(2-b) "Cottage food production operation" means an individual, operating out of the individual's home, who:

(A) produces at the individual's home, subject to Section 437.0196:

(i) a baked good that is not a potentially hazardous food, as defined by Section 437.0196;

(ii) candy;

(iii) coated and uncoated nuts;

(iv) unroasted nut butters;

(v) fruit butters;

(vi) [~~τ~~] a canned jam or jelly;

(vii) a fruit pie;

(viii) dehydrated fruit or vegetables,

including dried beans;

(ix) popcorn and popcorn snacks;

(x) cereal, including granola;

(xi) dry mix;

(xii) vinegar;

(xiii) pickles;

(xiv) mustard;

(xv) roasted coffee or dry tea; [~~τ~~] or

(xvi) a dried herb or dried herb mix [~~for sale at the person's home~~];

(B) has an annual gross income of \$50,000 or less from the sale of food described by Paragraph (A); [~~and~~]

(C) sells the foods produced under Paragraph (A) only directly to consumers at the individual's home, a farmers' market, a farm stand, or a municipal, county, or nonprofit fair, festival, or event; and

(D) delivers products to the consumer at the point of sale or another location designated by the consumer.

(3-b) "Farm stand" means a premises owned and operated by a producer of agricultural food products at which the producer or other persons may offer for sale produce or foods described by Subdivision (2-b) (A).

SECTION 2. Section 437.0191, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 437.0191. EXEMPTION FOR COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCTION OPERATIONS. (a) A cottage food production operation is not a food service establishment for purposes of this chapter.

(b) The exemption provided by Subsection (a) does not affect the application of Sections 431.045, 431.0495, and 431.247 authorizing the department or other local health authority to act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health.

SECTION 3. The heading to Section 437.0192, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 437.0192. REGULATION OF COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCTION OPERATIONS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES [~~HEALTH DEPARTMENT~~] PROHIBITED; COMPLAINTS.

SECTION 4. Section 437.0192(a), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A local government authority, including a local health department, may not regulate the production of food at a cottage food production operation.

SECTION 5. Sections 437.0193 and 437.0194, Health and Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

Sec. 437.0193. PACKAGING AND LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCTION OPERATIONS. (a) Food described by Section 437.001(2-b)(A) sold by a cottage food production operation must be packaged in a manner that prevents product contamination, except that a food item is not required to be packaged if it is too large or bulky for conventional packaging.

(b) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules requiring a cottage food production operation to label all of the foods described in Section 437.001(2-b)(A) that the operation sells to consumers. The label must include:

(1) the name and address of the cottage food production operation; and

(2) a statement that the food is not inspected by the department or a local health department.

(c) For foods not required to be packaged under Subsection (a), the information required to be included on the label under Subsection (b) must be provided to the consumer on an invoice or receipt.

Sec. 437.0194. CERTAIN SALES BY COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCTION OPERATIONS [~~THROUGH THE INTERNET~~] PROHIBITED. A cottage food production operation may not sell any of the foods described in Section 437.001(2-b)(A):

(1) through the Internet;

(2) by mail order; or

(3) at wholesale.

SECTION 6. Chapter 437, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Sections 437.0195 and 437.0196 to read as follows:

Sec. 437.0195. PRODUCTION OF COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCTS. (a) An individual who operates a cottage food production operation must have successfully completed a basic food safety education or training program for food handlers accredited under Subchapter D, Chapter 438.

(b) An individual may not process, prepare, package, or handle cottage food products unless the individual:

(1) meets the requirements of Subsection (a);

(2) is directly supervised by an individual described by Subsection (a); or

(3) is a member of the household in which the cottage food products are produced.

Sec. 437.0196. POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS FOOD; PROHIBITION FOR COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCTION OPERATIONS. (a) In this section, "potentially hazardous food" means a food that requires time and temperature control for safety to limit pathogen growth or toxin production. The term includes a food that must be held under proper temperature controls, such as refrigeration, to prevent the growth of bacteria that may cause human illness. A potentially hazardous food may include a food that contains protein and moisture and is neutral or slightly acidic, such as meat, poultry, fish, and shellfish products, pasteurized and unpasteurized milk and dairy products, raw seed sprouts, baked goods that require refrigeration,

including cream or custard pies or cakes, and ice products. The term does not include a food that uses potentially hazardous food as ingredients if the final food product does not require time or temperature control for safety to limit pathogen growth or toxin production.

(b) A cottage food production operation may not sell to customers potentially hazardous foods.

SECTION 7. Chapter 211, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter C to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER C. REGULATION OF COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCTION OPERATIONS

Sec. 211.031. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter, "cottage food production operation" and "home" have the meanings assigned by Section 437.001, Health and Safety Code.

Sec. 211.032. CERTAIN ZONING REGULATIONS PROHIBITED. A municipal zoning ordinance may not prohibit the use of a home for cottage food production operations.

Sec. 211.033. ACTION FOR NUISANCE OR OTHER TORT. This subchapter does not affect the right of a person to bring a cause of action under other law against an individual for nuisance or another tort arising out of the individual's use of the individual's home for cottage food production operations.

SECTION 8. Chapter 231, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter M to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER M. REGULATION OF COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCTION OPERATIONS

Sec. 231.281. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter, "cottage food production operation" and "home" have the meanings assigned by Section 437.001, Health and Safety Code.

Sec. 231.282. CERTAIN ZONING REGULATIONS PROHIBITED. A county zoning ordinance may not prohibit the use of a home for cottage food production operations.

Sec. 231.283. ACTION FOR NUISANCE OR OTHER TORT. This subchapter does not affect the right of a person to bring a cause of action under other law against an individual for nuisance or another tort arising out of the individual's use of the individual's home for cottage food production operations.

SECTION 9. Notwithstanding Section 437.0195, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, an individual operating a cottage food production operation is not required to complete a basic food safety education or training program for food handlers before January 1, 2014.

SECTION 10. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 970 was passed by the House on May 6, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 2, 1 present, not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 970 was passed by the Senate on May 22, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date