

# 2026 SESSION

INTRODUCED

26102572D

1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 151**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 5, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact § 35.1-14 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Department of Health; food*  
5 *service permits; out-of-state caterers.*

6 Patron—Williams

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

9 **1. That § 35.1-14 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

10 **§ 35.1-14. Regulations governing restaurants; advisory standards for exempt entities.**

11 A. Regulations of the Board governing restaurants shall include but not be limited to the following  
12 subjects: (i) a procedure for obtaining a license; (ii) the safe and sanitary maintenance, storage, operation, and  
13 use of equipment; (iii) the sanitary maintenance and use of a restaurant's physical plant; (iv) the safe  
14 preparation, handling, protection, and preservation of food, including necessary refrigeration or heating  
15 methods; (v) procedures for vector and pest control; (vi) requirements for toilet and cleansing facilities for  
16 employees and customers; (vii) requirements for appropriate lighting and ventilation not otherwise provided  
17 for in the Uniform Statewide Building Code; (viii) requirements for an approved water supply and sewage  
18 disposal system; (ix) personal hygiene standards for employees, particularly those engaged in food handling;  
19 (x) the appropriate use of precautions to prevent the transmission of communicable diseases; and (xi) training  
20 standards that address food safety and food allergy awareness and safety.

21 B. In its regulations, the Board may classify restaurants by type and specify different requirements for  
22 each classification.

23 C. The Board may adopt any edition of the Food and Drug Administration's Food Code, or supplement  
24 thereto, or any portion thereof, as regulations, with any amendments as it deems appropriate. In addition, the  
25 Board may repeal or amend any regulation adopted pursuant to this subsection. No regulations adopted or  
26 amended by the Board pursuant to this subsection, however, shall establish requirements for any license,  
27 permit, or inspection unless such license, permit, or inspection is otherwise provided for in this title. The  
28 provisions of the Food and Drug Administration's Food Code shall not apply to farmers selling their own  
29 farm-produced products directly to consumers for their personal use, whether such sales occur on such  
30 farmer's farm or at a farmers' market, unless such provisions are adopted in accordance with the  
31 Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.).

32 D. The Board may issue advisory standards for the safe preparation, handling, protection, and preservation  
33 of food by entities exempt from the provisions of this title pursuant to § 35.1-25 or 35.1-26.

34 E. The provisions of the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.) shall not apply to the adoption of  
35 any regulation pursuant to subsection C if the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services adopts the same  
36 edition of the Food Code, or the same portions thereof, pursuant to subsection B of § 3.2-5121 and the  
37 regulations adopted by the Board and the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services have the same  
38 effective date. In the event that the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services adopts regulations pursuant  
39 to § 2.2-4012.1, the effective date of the Board's regulations may be any date on or after the effective date of  
40 the regulations adopted by the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

41 Notwithstanding any exemption to the contrary, a regulation promulgated pursuant to subsection C shall  
42 be subject to the requirements set out in §§ 2.2-4007.03, 2.2-4007.04, and 2.2-4007.05, and shall be published  
43 in the Virginia Register of Regulations. After the close of the 60-day comment period, the Board may adopt a  
44 final regulation, with or without changes. Such regulation shall become effective 15 days after publication in  
45 the Virginia Register, unless the Board has withdrawn or suspended the regulation, or a later date has been set  
46 by the Board. The Board shall also hold at least one public hearing on the proposed regulation during the  
47 60-day comment period. The notice for such public hearing shall include the date, time and place of the  
48 hearing.

49 F. The Board shall adopt regulations pursuant to subsection C that allow the receipt for sale or service of  
50 rabbits that are slaughtered or processed in a facility that complies with regulations adopted by the Board of  
51 Agriculture and Consumer Services pursuant to the provisions of subsection H of § 3.2-5121.

52 G. Regulations adopted by the Board pursuant to this section shall not require an establishment that sells  
53 only prepared foods to have a certified food protection manager, as defined in § 35.1-1, on site during all  
54 hours of operation.

55 H. *The Board shall adopt regulations establishing a permitting process and food safety requirements*  
56 *applicable to out-of-state entities for the sale or service of food that has been prepared outside of the*

INTRODUCED

HB151

59     *Commonwealth. The Department shall grant such permit to any entity that meets the requirements*  
60     *established by such regulations. A permit granted pursuant to such regulations shall only allow out-of-state*  
61     *entities to serve food at temporary, short-term events or from a mobile food unit permitted to operate in the*  
62     *Commonwealth. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to allow an out-of-state entity to operate a*  
63     *permanent, fixed food service establishment in the Commonwealth without obtaining the appropriate permit*  
64     *from the Department.*