

HOUSE BILL NO. 402

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Callsen)

A BILL to amend and reenact § 3.2-5130 of the Code of Virginia, relating to cottage food laws; sale of certain food over phone and internet.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 3.2-5130 of the Code of Virginia is amended as follows:

§ 3.2-5130. Inspections required to operate food establishment.

A. It is unlawful to operate as a food manufacturer, food storage warehouse, or retail food establishment until (i) such food manufacturer, food storage warehouse, or retail food establishment has been inspected by the Commissioner and (ii) the Commissioner has issued a permit pursuant to subsection C of § 3.2-5100 for the operation of the food manufacturer, food storage warehouse, or retail food establishment. If the inspection finds no significant health hazards to the public, any food manufacturer, food storage warehouse, or retail food establishment may operate until receipt of the permit. Such permit shall be processed within 30 days of the inspection date.

B. If the Commissioner determines that conditions exist in a food manufacturer, food storage warehouse, or retail food establishment that would render such entity significantly out of compliance with an applicable provision of this chapter or regulation adopted pursuant to this chapter, the Commissioner may, in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.), deny, suspend, or revoke the permit of such entity.

If the Commissioner determines that conditions exist in a food manufacturer, food storage warehouse, or retail food establishment that present a significant and immediate public health hazard, the Commissioner may suspend the permit of such entity and shall seek an expedited informal fact-finding proceeding pursuant to § 2.2-4019.

C. The provisions of subsections A and B shall not apply to:

1. Food manufacturers operating under a grant of inspection from the Office of Meat and Poultry Services or a permit from the Office of Dairy and Foods in the Department; and Grade A fluid milk manufacturing plants and shellfish and crustacea processing plants operating under a permit from the Virginia Department of

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32 3. Private homes where the resident processes and prepares candies, jams, and jellies not considered to be
33 low-acid or acidified low-acid food products, dried fruits, dry herbs, dry seasonings, dry mixtures, coated and
34 uncoated nuts, vinegars and flavored vinegars, popcorn, popcorn balls, cotton candy, dried pasta, dry baking
35 mixes, roasted coffee, dried tea, cereals, trail mixes, granola, and baked goods if such products are (i) those
36 that do not require time or temperature control after preparation; (ii) sold *in person in the Commonwealth at*
37 *any location, through the internet, or by phone* to an individual *in the Commonwealth* for his own
38 consumption and not for resale or consignment; (iii) *sold at the private home, at a temporary event that*
39 *operates for a period of no more than 14 consecutive days, or at a farmers market delivered in person, by*
40 *mail, or by delivery service to an individual in the Commonwealth for his own consumption and not for resale*
41 *or consignment*; (iv) not offered for sale to be used in or offered for consumption in retail food
42 establishments; and (v) affixed with a label placed on the principal display panel or, for a product in
43 packaging not large enough to bear such a label, offered for sale with a sign displaying the name, physical
44 address *or post office box number*, and telephone number of the person preparing the food product, the date
45 the food product was processed, and the statement "NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED
46 WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION." Nothing in this subdivision shall create or diminish the authority of the
47 Commissioner under § 3.2-5102 or shall prohibit a resident selling a food product in accordance with this
48 subdivision from advertising such food product on the Internet;

49 4. Private homes where the resident processes and prepares pickles and other acidified vegetables that
50 have an equilibrium pH value of 4.6 or lower if such products are (i) sold *in person in the Commonwealth at*
51 *any location, through the internet, or by phone* to an individual *in the Commonwealth* for his own
52 consumption and not for resale or consignment; (ii) *sold at the private home, at a temporary event that*
53 *operates for a period of no more than 14 consecutive days, or at a farmers market delivered in person, by*
54 *mail, or by delivery service to an individual in the Commonwealth for his own consumption and not for resale*
55 *or consignment*; (iii) not offered for sale to be used in or offered for consumption in retail food
56 establishments; (iv) affixed with a label placed on the principal display panel displaying the name, physical
57 address *or post office box number*, and telephone number of the person preparing the food product, the date
58 the food product was processed, and the statement "NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED
59 WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION"; and (v) not exceeding \$9,000 in gross sales in a calendar year. Nothing
60 in this subdivision shall create or diminish the authority of the Commissioner under § 3.2-5102 or shall
61 prohibit a resident selling a food product in accordance with this subdivision from advertising such food
62 product on the Internet;

63 5. Private homes where the resident processes and prepares honey produced by his own hives, if: (i) the
64 resident sells less than 250 gallons of honey annually; (ii) the resident does not process and sell other food
65 products in addition to honey, except as allowed by subdivisions 3 and 4; (iii) the product complies with the
66 other provisions of this chapter; and (iv) the product is labeled "PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT
67 STATE INSPECTION. WARNING: Do Not Feed Honey to Infants Under One Year Old." Nothing in this
68 subdivision shall increase or diminish the authority of the Commissioner under § 3.2-5102; and

69 6. Retail establishments that (i) do not prepare or serve food; (ii) sell only food or beverages that are
70 sealed in packaging by the manufacturer and have been officially inspected in the manufacturing process; (iii)
71 do not sell infant formulas; (iv) do not sell salvaged foods; and (v) certify to the Department that they meet
72 the provisions of this subdivision.

73 D. Nonprofit organizations, private homes, and retail establishments that qualify for an exception under
74 subsection C shall be exempt from the permit and inspection requirements of this chapter and the inspection
75 fees. Nothing in this section shall prevent the Department from inspecting any nonprofit organization, private
76 home, or retail establishment if a consumer complaint is received.

77 E. Any person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

78 **2. That the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (the Department) shall convene the**
79 **Home Food Processing Operator Work Group (the Work Group) for the purpose of examining**
80 **structural, equipment, and facility standards for those private homes in the Commonwealth producing**
81 **products that do not meet the exemptions from the inspection and permitting requirements in**
82 **§ 3.2-5130 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, pursuant to subdivisions C 3 and 4 of**
83 **§ 3.2-5130 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act. The Work Group shall consist of**
84 **representatives from the Department, a representative from the Department of Health, a**
85 **representative of the Institute for Justice, and any other relevant stakeholders as determined by the**
86 **Department. The Work Group shall complete its meetings by November 1, 2026, and report its**
87 **findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation**
88 **and Natural Resources and the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources**
89 **by the first day of the 2027 Regular Session of the General Assembly.**