



**House Health Reported Substitute for SB84**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to inmate food; to amend Section 14-3-45, Code of Alabama 1975, to make conforming changes; to add Section 22-20-5.5 to the Code of Alabama 1975, to require the Alabama Department of Public Health to adopt rules governing food service sanitation in facilities controlled or operated by the Department of Corrections and county and municipal jails for the feeding of inmates; and to authorize sanitation enforcement and inspection of government food services that serve correctional facilities and jails.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 14-3-45, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§14-3-45

The diet of ~~convicts~~inmates in quantity and quality ~~must~~shall be ~~such as may be~~ directed by the ~~Board~~Department of Corrections, ~~and~~ shall be sound and wholesome, and shall be prepared and served subject to the standards established by the Alabama Department of Public Health pursuant to Section 22-20-5.5."

Section 2. Section 22-20-5.5 is added to the Code of



## House Health Reported Substitute for SB84

29 Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

30 §22-20-5.5

31 (a) A food service establishment as defined in the  
32 sanitation rules adopted by the Alabama Department of Public  
33 Health shall include any cafeteria, canteen, commissary, or  
34 other location that purchases or receives delivery of food for  
35 storage, and prepares, stores, serves, or dispenses food in  
36 individual portion size to inmates, which is operated by the  
37 Department of Corrections or any county or municipality.

38 (b) (1) The Alabama Department of Public Health may  
39 **initially** enforce existing rules that govern food service  
40 establishments which may also be applied to facilities  
41 operated by the Department of Corrections or a county or  
42 municipality as described in subsection (a).

43 (2) The Alabama Department of **Public** Health shall  
44 **thereafter** adopt rules that are appropriate for food service  
45 establishments operated by the Department of Corrections and  
46 county and municipal jails, to ensure the sanitary conditions  
47 of food storage, preparation, and service, the enforcement of  
48 which shall be under the jurisdiction of the health officer in  
49 the county where the facility is located.

50 (3) **The** Alabama Department of Public Health shall  
51 consider the unique requirements and limitations of  
52 correctional facilities and jails, and may inspect food  
53 service establishments operated therein, identify sanitary  
54 violations, issue scores, and **recommend** corrective action, but  
55 may not order the suspension or termination of any food  
56 service establishment that is:



**House Health Reported Substitute for SB84**

57           a. Operated by the Department of Corrections without  
58 the agreement of the Commissioner of Corrections; or

59           b. Operated by a county or municipal jail without the  
60 agreement of the governing body of the county or municipality.

61           (4) In any case in which the Department of Corrections,  
62 or a county or municipality, contracts with a private  
63 individual or entity to serve or dispense food in individual  
64 portion size to inmates, the individual or entity shall remain  
65 subject as a food service establishment to existing,  
66 applicable sanitation rules of the Alabama Department of  
67 Public Health.

68           Section 3. This act shall become effective on October  
69 1, 2026.