

HB139 INTRODUCED



1 HB139
2 ZQ9SIRW-1
3 By Representative Crawford
4 RFD: Health
5 First Read: 13-Jan-26
6 PFD: 09-Jan-26



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4 SYNOPSIS:

5 Existing law prohibits the manufacture or sale
6 of corn masa food products that are not enriched with a
7 minimum amount of folic acid.

8 Existing law also exempts certain types of corn
9 masa products from this requirement.

10 This bill would add corn masa flour to the
11 products that must be enriched.

12 This bill would revise the corn masa products
13 that are exempt from this requirement to include
14 certified organic corn masa flour and products.

15 This bill would also make nonsubstantive,
16 technical revisions to update the existing code
17 language to current style.

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19
20 A BILL
21 TO BE ENTITLED
22 AN ACT

23
24 Relating to food enrichment; to amend Section 20-1-71,
25 as amended by Act 2025-387, 2025 Regular Session, and Section
26 20-1-79, as added by Act 2025-387, 2025 Regular Session, Code
27 of Alabama 1975, to add corn masa flour to the corn masa
28 products that must be enriched with folic acid; to further

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29 provide for the corn masa products exempt from this
30 requirement; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions
31 to update the existing code language to current style.

32 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

33 Section 1. Section 20-1-71, as amended by Act 2025-387,
34 2025 Regular Session, and Section 20-1-79, as added by Act
35 2025-387, 2025 Regular Session, Code of Alabama 1975, are
36 amended to read as follows:

37 "§20-1-71

38 When used in this article, the following terms have the
39 following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates
40 otherwise:

41 (1) APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AGENCY. The federal agency or
42 department or administrative federal officer charged with the
43 enforcement and administration of the federal Food, Drug and
44 Cosmetic Act.

45 (2) BOARD. The Alabama State Board of Agriculture and
46 Industries.

47 (3) BREAD. Bread, rolls, or buns of every kind and
48 description made wholly or partly from wheat flour which
49 conforms to the definition and standard of identity of bread
50 set out in 21 C.F.R. Part 136. The term does not include bread
51 containing no wheat flour or breads made from 100 percent
52 whole wheat flour. The term includes breads made from mixtures
53 of white flour and whole wheat flour, known as brown breads.

54 (4) CORN MASA. A ~~dry flour-type~~ product made from corn
55 that has been treated with slaked lime or otherwise undergoes
56 a process known as nixtamalization.



57 (5) CORN MASA FLOUR. A dry flour-type product made from
58 drying corn masa.

59 (5)(6) CORN MASA PRODUCT. Any food product ~~containing~~
60 made primarily from corn masa or corn masa flour.

61 (6)(7) CORNMEAL. All meal for human consumption made
62 from corn, either white or yellow, whole cornmeal, bolted
63 cornmeal, and degerminated cornmeal as defined in definitions
64 and standards of identity set out in 21 C.F.R. Part 137.

65 (7)(8) ENRICHMENT. As applied to bread, flour, meal, or
66 grits, the addition ~~thereto~~ of vitamins and other ingredients
67 of the nature required by this article. and The terms
68 "enriched bread," "enriched flour," "enriched whole cornmeal,"
69 "enriched bolted meal," "enriched degemerminated meal," ~~or~~ and
70 "enriched grits" ~~means~~ mean the appropriate food product,
71 according to the federal standards of identity, which has been
72 enriched to conform to the requirements of this article.

73 (8)(9) FLOUR.

74 a. ~~Flour, white~~ White flour, wheat flour, and plain
75 flour.

76 b. Bromated flour.

77 c. Self-rising flour, self-rising white flour, and
78 self-rising wheat flour.

79 d. Phosphated flour, phosphated white flour, and
80 phosphated wheat flour in the definitions and standards of
81 identity set out in 21 C.F.R. Part 137. The term includes all
82 mixtures of flours with whole wheat or high-extraction flours.
83 The term does not include 100 percent whole wheat flour and
84 specially packaged cake and pancake flour.



85 (9) (10) GRITS. Grits, pearl grits, and degemerinated
86 grits made from corn by grinding or cracking as defined in the
87 standards of identity set out in 21 C.F.R. Part 137.

88 (10) (11) PERSON. An individual, corporation,
89 partnership, association, joint stock company, trust, or any
90 unincorporated organization."

91 "§20-1-79

92 (a) No person shall manufacture, mix, compound, sell,
93 trade, or offer for sale or trade for human consumption any
94 corn masa flour or corn masa product in this state unless the
95 following ingredients are contained in each pound thereof:

96 (1) For corn masa flour, not less than 0.7 milligrams
97 of folic acid, within an acceptable industry standard
98 deviation of error.

99 (2) For corn masa products, not less than 0.4
100 milligrams of folic acid, within an acceptable industry
101 standard deviation of error.

102 (b) This section shall not apply to either of the
103 following:

104 (1) Corn masa flour or corn masa products made by or
105 supplied to a cottage food production operation.

106 (2) ~~Corn Certified organic corn~~ masa flour or corn masa
107 products ~~offered for sale by a grocery store offering~~
108 conforming products.

109 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
110 1, 2026.