

**SB84 INTRODUCED**



1 SB84  
2 L5FHUYA-1  
3 By Senators Stutts, Sessions, Butler  
4 RFD: Healthcare  
5 First Read: 13-Jan-26



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4 SYNOPSIS:

5 Existing law requires that the food served to  
6 state inmates be wholesome, but otherwise sets no  
7 standards for food sanitation prepared in or for  
8 correctional facilities and county and municipal jails.

9 This bill would require the Alabama Department  
10 of Public Health to assume jurisdiction over sanitation  
11 in cafeterias and other food services operated by the  
12 Department of Corrections and county and municipal  
13 jails by tailoring appropriate requirements which would  
14 include regular sanitation inspections and the  
15 reporting and correction of sanitary violations.

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18 A BILL

19 TO BE ENTITLED

20 AN ACT

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22 Relating to inmate food; to amend Section 14-3-45, Code  
23 of Alabama 1975, to make conforming changes; to add Section  
24 22-20-5.5 to the Code of Alabama 1975, to require the Alabama  
25 Department of Public Health to adopt rules governing food  
26 service sanitation in facilities controlled or operated by the  
27 Department of Corrections and county and municipal jails for  
28 the feeding of inmates; and to authorize sanitation

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29 enforcement and inspection of government food services that  
30 serve correctional facilities and jails.

31 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

34 "§14-3-45

35 The diet of ~~convicts~~inmates in quantity and quality  
36 ~~must~~shall be ~~such~~ as ~~may be~~ directed by the ~~Board~~Department of  
37 Corrections, ~~and~~ shall be sound and wholesome, and shall be  
38 prepared and served subject to the standards established by  
39 the Alabama Department of Public Health pursuant to Section  
40 22-20-5.5."

41 Section 2. Section 22-20-5.5 is added to the Code of  
42 Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

43 §22-20-5.5

44 (a) A food service establishment as defined in the  
45 sanitation rules adopted by the Alabama Department of Public  
46 Health shall include any cafeteria, canteen, commissary, or  
47 other location that purchases or receives delivery of food for  
48 storage, and prepares, stores, serves, or dispenses food in  
49 individual portion size to inmates, which is operated by the  
50 Department of Corrections or any county or municipality.

51 (b) (1) The Alabama Department of Public Health may  
52 enforce existing rules that govern food service establishments  
53 which may also be applied to facilities operated by the  
54 Department of Corrections or a county or municipality as  
55 described in subsection (a).

56 (2) The Alabama Department of Health shall adopt rules

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57 that are appropriate for food service establishments operated  
58 by the Department of Corrections and county and municipal  
59 jails, to ensure the sanitary conditions of food storage,  
60 preparation, and service, the enforcement of which shall be  
61 under the jurisdiction of the health officer in the county  
62 where the facility is located.

63 (3) Pursuant to subdivision (1), the Alabama Department  
64 of Public Health shall consider the unique requirements and  
65 limitations of correctional facilities and jails, and may  
66 inspect food service establishments operated therein, identify  
67 sanitary violations, issue scores, and prescribe corrective  
68 action, but may not order the suspension or termination of any  
69 food service establishment that is:

70 a. Operated by the Department of Corrections without  
71 the agreement of the Commissioner of Corrections; or

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

74 (4) In any case in which the Department of Corrections,  
75 or a county or municipality, contracts with a private  
76 individual or entity to serve or dispense food in individual  
77 portion size to inmates, the individual or entity shall remain  
78 subject as a food service establishment to existing,  
79 applicable sanitation rules of the Alabama Department of  
80 Public Health.

81 Section 3. This act shall become effective on October  
82 1, 2026.