

SB84 INTRODUCED



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



SYNOPSIS:

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

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

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



SB84 INTRODUCED

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 Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

§22-20-5.5

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

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

(2) The Alabama Department of Health shall adopt rules



SB84 INTRODUCED

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

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

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

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

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

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