### As Reported by the House Agriculture Committee

## 136th General Assembly

# Regular Session

Sub. H. B. No. 134

2025-2026

#### Representatives Gross, Humphrey

Cosponsors: Representatives Fischer, Brennan, Denson, Synenberg, Jarrells, McClain, Ferguson, Deeter, Barhorst, Swearingen, Workman, Dean, Mullins, Sims, McNally, Brewer, Klopfenstein, Newman, Schmidt

То	amend sections 3715.01, 3715.021, 3715.022,	1
	3715.023, and 3717.22 and to enact sections	2
	3715.026 and 3715.21 of the Revised Code to	3
	authorize the sale of certain homemade foods	4
	under a microenterprise home kitchen operation	5
	registration.	6

#### BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 3715.01, 3715.021, 3715.022,	7
3715.023, and 3717.22 be amended and sections 3715.026 and	8
3715.21 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:	9
Sec. 3715.01. (A) As used in this chapter:	10
(1) "Person" means an individual, partnership,	11
corporation, or association.	12
(2) "Food" means:	13
(a) Articles used for food or drink for humans or animals;	14
(b) Chewing gum;	15
(c) Articles used for components of any such articles.	16

(3) "Drug" means:	17
(a) Articles recognized in the United States pharmacopoeia	18
and national formulary, or any supplement to them;	19
(b) Articles intended for use in the diagnosis, cure,	20
mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in humans or	21
animals;	22
(c) Articles, other than food, intended to affect the	23
structure or any function of the body of humans or other	24
animals;	25
(d) Articles intended for use as a component of any of the	26
foregoing articles, other than devices or their components,	27
parts, or accessories.	28
(4) "Device," except when used in division (B)(1) of this	29
section and in division (A)(10) of section 3715.52, division (F)	30
of section 3715.60, division (A)(5) of section 3715.64, and	31
division (C) of section 3715.67 of the Revised Code, means any	32
instrument, apparatus, implement, machine, contrivance, implant,	33
in vitro reagent, or other similar or related article, including	34
any component, part, or accessory, that is any of the following:	35
(a) Recognized in the United States pharmacopoeia and	36
national formulary, or any supplement to them;	37
(b) Intended for use in the diagnosis of disease or other	38
conditions, or in the cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention	39
of disease in humans or animals;	40
(c) Intended to affect the structure or any function of	41
the body of humans or animals, and that does not achieve any of	42
its principal intended purposes through chemical action within	43
or on the body of humans or animals and is not dependent upon	44

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or suggested by statement, word, design, device, sound, or in	187
any combination thereof, but also the extent to which the	188
labeling or advertisement fails to reveal facts material in the	189
light of such representations or material with respect to	190
consequence which may result from the use of the article to	191
which the labeling or advertisement relates under the conditions	192
of use prescribed in the labeling or advertisement thereof or	193
under such conditions of use as are customary or usual.	194

- (2) The provisions regarding the selling of food, drugs, devices, or cosmetics include the manufacture, production, processing, packing, exposure, offer, possession, and holding of any such article for sale; and the sale, dispensing, and giving of any such article, and the supplying or applying of any such articles in the conduct of any food, drug, or cosmetic establishment. The provisions do not prohibit a licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs from administering or personally furnishing a drug or device to a patient.
- (3) The representation of a drug, in its labeling or

  advertisement, as an antiseptic is a representation that it is a

  germicide, except in the case of a drug purporting to be, or

  represented as, an antiseptic for inhibitory use as a wet

  dressing, ointment, dusting powder, or other use that involves

  prolonged contact with the body.
- (4) Whenever jurisdiction is vested in the director of

  agriculture or the state board of pharmacy, the jurisdiction of

  the board shall be limited to the sale, offering for sale,

  giving away, delivery, or dispensing in any manner of drugs at

  the wholesale and retail levels or to the consumer and shall be

  exclusive in the case of such sale, offering for sale, giving

  away, delivery, or dispensing in any manner of drugs at the

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wholesale	e and	retail	levels	or to	the	e consumer	in	any	place	217
where pre	escrip	otions .	are dis	pensed	dor	compounded	d.			218

(5) To assist in effectuating the provisions of those sections, the director of agriculture or state board of pharmacy may request assistance or data from any government or private agency or individual.

#### Sec. 3715.021. (A) As used in this section:

- (1) "Food processing establishment" means a premises or 224 part of a premises where food is processed, packaged, 225 manufactured, or otherwise held or handled for distribution to 226 227 another location or for sale at wholesale. "Food processing establishment" includes the activities of a bakery, 228 confectionery, cannery, bottler, warehouse, or distributor, and 229 the activities of an entity that receives or salvages distressed 230 food for sale or use as food. A "food processing establishment" 231 does not include a cottage food production operation; a 232 microenterprise home kitchen operation; a small egg producer; a 2.33 processor of tree syrup who boils sap when a minimum of seventy-234 five per cent of the sap used to produce the syrup is collected 235 directly from trees by that processor; a processor of sorghum 236 who processes sorghum juice when a minimum of seventy-five per 237 cent of the sorghum juice used to produce the sorghum is 238 extracted directly from sorghum plants by that processor; a 239 beekeeper who jars honey when a minimum of seventy-five per cent 240 of the honey is from that beekeeper's own hives; or a processor 241 of apple syrup or apple butter who directly harvests from trees 242 a minimum of seventy-five per cent of the apples used to produce 243 the apple syrup or apple butter. 244
- (2) "Small egg producer" means any person that is engaged

  in the operation of egg production and annually maintains five

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hundred or fewer birds.

(B) The director of agriculture shall adopt rules in 248 accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code that establish, 249 when otherwise not established by the Revised Code, standards 250 and good manufacturing practices for food processing 251 establishments, including the facilities of food processing 252 establishments and their sanitation. The rules shall conform 253 with or be equivalent to the standards for foods established by 254 the United States food and drug administration in Title 21 of 255 256 the Code of Federal Regulations.

A business or that portion of a business that is regulated by the department of agriculture under Chapter 917. or 918. of the Revised Code is not subject to regulation under this section as a food processing establishment.

Sec. 3715.022. (A) All food products, including those 261 produced and packaged by a cottage food production operation or 262 microenterprise home kitchen operation, and all packaged maple 263 syrup, sorghum, and honey, are subject to food sampling 264 conducted by the director of agriculture, or a representative 265 the director authorizes, to determine if a food product is 266 misbranded or adulterated. A component of the food sampling 267 conducted under this section may include the performance of 268 sample analyses in accordance with section 3715.02 of the 269 Revised Code. 270

The director of agriculture shall adopt rules as the director considers necessary to establish standards for food sampling and procedures for administration of this section. The rules shall be adopted in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

(B) Labeling requirements do not apply to fruit butter	276
produced at a festival or celebration, if the festival or	277
celebration is organized by a political subdivision of this	278
state and the fruit butter is sold during the festival or	279
celebration from the production site.	280
Sec. 3715.023. (A) A cottage food production operation, a	281
microenterprise home kitchen operation, and a maple syrup or	282
sorghum processor and beekeeper described in division (A) of	283
section 3715.021 of the Revised Code shall label each of their	284
food products and include the following information on the label	285
of each of their food products:	286
(1) The name and address of the business of the cottage	287
food production operation, microenterprise home kitchen	288
<pre>operation, processor, or beekeeper;</pre>	289
(2) The name of the food product;	290
(3) The ingredients of the food product, in descending	291
order of predominance by weight;	292
(4) The net weight and volume of the food product;	293
(5) In the case of a cottage food production operation or	294
microenterprise home kitchen operation, the following statement	295
in ten-point type: "This product is home produced."	296
(B) Food Except as provided in section 3715.026 of the	297
Revised Code, food products identified and labeled in accordance	298
with division (A) of this section are acceptable food products	299
that a retail food establishment or food service operation	300
licensed under Chapter 3717. of the Revised Code may offer for	301
sale or use in preparing and serving food.	302
Sec. 3715.026. (A) As used in this section:	303

(1) "Homemade food item" means any food made at the home	304
of a microenterprise home kitchen operation.	305
"Homemade food item" does not include any of the	306
<pre>following:</pre>	307
(a) Low-acid canned foods;	308
(b) Alcoholic beverages;	309
(c) Foods prepared through smoking or curing as a	310
<pre>preservation method;</pre>	311
(d) Juices unless produced by a microenterprise home	312
kitchen operation in accordance with the standards that apply to	313
a food service operation or retail food establishment specified	314
in section 3715.21 of the Revised Code;	315
(e) Custom processed meats or poultry;	316
(f) Shellfish from the operation of a molluscan shellfish	317
life-support system display tank used to store or display	318
shellfish that are offered for human consumption;	319
(g) Potentially hazardous foods prepared using reduced	320
<pre>oxygen methods;</pre>	321
(h) Food containing any drug.	322
(2) "Home kitchen" means the home kitchen in which the	323
microenterprise home kitchen operation does or will prepare all	324
homemade food items for sale to a consumer.	325
(B)(1) The director of agriculture shall issue an	326
microenterprise home kitchen operation registration to a	327
microenterprise home kitchen operation when application is made	328
by an operation in accordance with procedures established by the	329
director of agriculture. Such registration shall be valid from	330

the date it is issued through the last day of January of the	331
following year; however registrations issued between the first	332
day of January through the thirtieth day of January of a year	333
expire on the thirty-first day of January of that year. An	334
application for registration shall be accompanied by a	335
registration fee of twenty-five dollars. However, if a person	336
submits an application for registration within six months of the	337
expiration date of the registration, the fee shall be one-half	338
of the registration fee.	339
(2) The department shall renew a microenterprise home	340
kitchen operation registration if the operation is in compliance	341
with this section, submits a renewal application in accordance	342
with procedures established by the director of agriculture, and	343
pays a twenty-five-dollar renewal fee. A renewed registration	344
shall be valid from the first day of February through the last	345
day of January of the following year.	346
(C)(1) The director or the director's designee shall	347
inspect the premises of every microenterprise home kitchen	348
operation. Inspections shall be limited to the home kitchen in	349
the home, locations of the home where homemade food items and	350
ingredients are stored, and bathrooms in the home for the	351
purpose of ensuring that there is a functioning hand washing	352
sink and liquid soap.	353
(2) The director or the director's designee shall obtain a	354
search warrant when required by law to enter a home if a	355
microenterprise home kitchen operation does not consent to an	356
inspection. A search warrant or administrative warrant is	357
otherwise not required to conduct an inspection under this	358
section.	359
(3) The director may charge a fee to a microenterprise	360

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(1) Use commercial kitchen equipment or other specialized	389
kitchen equipment such as a three-compartment sink;	390
(2) Alter the structure or design of the home kitchen;	391
(3) Install or modify venting in the home kitchen;	392
(4) Require a certain countertop be used in a home	393
<pre>kitchen;</pre>	394
(5) Prevent the presence of pets from parts of the home	395
where food is not being stored or prepared, including the	396
kitchen when homemade food items to be sold are not being	397
prepared.	398
(F) A microenterprise home kitchen operation shall comply	399
with all of the following sale and delivery requirements:	400
(1) A homemade food item that is not a dairy product or	401
does not contain meat, poultry, or seafood may be sold by the	402
microenterprise home kitchen operation to the consumer in person	403
or remotely, including by telephone or internet, or by an agent	404
of the microenterprise home kitchen operation or a third-party	405
vendor, such as a retail shop or grocery store, and may be	406
delivered by the microenterprise home kitchen operation or	407
third-party carrier, such as the United States postal service.	408
(2) Homemade food items that are dairy products or contain	409
meat, poultry, or seafood shall be sold by the microenterprise	410
home kitchen operation to the consumer, either in person or	411
remotely, including by telephone or internet, or by an agent of	412
the microenterprise home kitchen operation or a third-party	413
vendor, but shall be delivered by the microenterprise home	414
kitchen operation to the consumer in person.	415
(3) If a potentially hazardous food item is transported	416

before final delivery to the consumer, the food shall be	417
maintained at an appropriate temperature during transport, shall	418
not be transported more than once, and shall not be transported	419
for longer than two hours.	420
(4) Before selling any food under this section, a	421
microenterprise home kitchen operation shall complete food	422
safety training approved by the director or the director's	423
designee. The director or the director's designee shall ensure	424
that low-cost and online options for training are available for	425
microenterprise home kitchen operations.	426
(G) A microenterprise home kitchen operation's gross	427
receipts for sales of potentially hazardous homemade food items	428
under the registration shall not exceed one hundred fifty	429
thousand dollars per calendar year. This section shall not be	430
construed to interfere with a microenterprise home kitchen	431
operation's ability to also sell food as a cottage food	432
operation or a licensed home bakery.	433
(H) The director or the director's designee may issue a	434
fine not to exceed seventy-five dollars to a microenterprise	435
home kitchen operation that is found to be in violation of any	436
of the requirements of this section. The director or the	437
director's designee shall first issue a warning and give the	438
microenterprise home kitchen operation the opportunity to	439
correct a violation before issuing a fine.	440
(I)(1) The director or the director's designee may issue	441
an order suspending or revoking a microenterprise home kitchen	442
operation registration for a violation of this section. Except	443
as provided in division (I)(2) of this section, a registration	444
shall not be suspended or revoked until the registration holder	445
is provided a warning and has had an opportunity to correct the	446

violation. The microenterprise home kitchen operation may appeal	447
the suspension or revocation in accordance with Chapter 119. of	448
the Revised Code.	449
(2) If the director or the director's designee determines	450
that a microenterprise home kitchen operation presents an	451
immediate danger to the public health, the director may issue an	452
order immediately suspending the operation's registration	453
without affording the registration holder a warning or an	454
opportunity for a hearing. The director then shall afford the	455
registration holder an opportunity for a hearing for	456
registration reinstatement in accordance with Chapter 119. of	457
the Revised Code not later than ten days after the date of	458
suspension.	459
(J) This section does not prohibit a person from operating	460
as an exempt cottage food operation if the person only sells and	461
delivers food permitted under this chapter for a cottage food	462
operation.	463
(K) This section does not prohibit a local government from	464
enforcing a generally applicable zoning law.	465
Sec. 3715.21. (A) As used in this section, "meat" means	466
game animals, migratory waterfowl, and game birds.	467
(B) A food service operation or retail food establishment	468
shall not custom process meat unless such processing is done at	469
the end of the work shift or day to prevent any cross	470
contamination of product for sale or service.	471
(C) Prior to entry into the food commiss energics	470
(C) Prior to entry into the food service operation or	472
retail food establishment, a food service operation or retail	473
food establishment shall ensure that, with respect to custom	474
process meat, any animal carcass is skinned, beheaded,	475

Sec. 3717.22. (A) The following are not retail food

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establishments:	505
(1) A food service operation licensed under this chapter,	506
including a food service operation that provides the services of	507
a retail food establishment pursuant to an endorsement issued	508
under section 3717.44 of the Revised Code;	509
(2) An entity exempt under divisions (B)(1) to (9), (11)	510
to (13), or (15) of section 3717.42 of the Revised Code from the	511
requirement to be licensed as a food service operation and an	512
entity exempt under division (B)(10) of that section if the	513
entity is regulated by the department of agriculture as a food	514
processing establishment under section 3715.021 of the Revised	515
Code;	516
(3) A business or that portion of a business that is	517
regulated by the federal government or the department of	518
agriculture as a food manufacturing or food processing business,	519
including a business or that portion of a business regulated by	520
the department of agriculture under Chapter 911., 913., 915.,	521
917., 918., or 925. of the Revised Code.	522
(B) All of the following are exempt from the requirement	523
to be licensed as a retail food establishment:	524
(1) An establishment with commercially prepackaged foods	525
that are not potentially hazardous and contained in displays,	526
the total space of which equals less than two hundred cubic	527
feet;	528
(2) A person at a farmers market that offers for sale only	529
one or more of the following:	530
(a) Fresh unprocessed fruits or vegetables;	531
(b) Products of a cottage food production operation or	532

microenterprise home kitchen operation;	533
(c) Tree syrup, sorghum, honey, apple syrup, or apple	534
butter that is produced by a tree syrup or sorghum producer,	535
beekeeper, or apple syrup or apple butter processor described in	536
division (A) of section 3715.021 of the Revised Code;	537
(d) Wine as authorized under section 4303.2010 of the	538
Revised Code;	539
(e) Commercially prepackaged food that is not potentially	540
hazardous, on the condition that the food is contained in	541
displays, the total space of which equals less than one hundred	542
cubic feet on the premises where the person conducts business at	543
the farmers market.	544
(3) A person who offers for sale at a roadside stand only	545
fresh fruits and fresh vegetables that are unprocessed;	546
(4) A nonprofit organization exempt from federal income	547
taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the "Internal Revenue Code	548
of 1986," 100 Stat. 2085, 26 U.S.C.A. 1, as amended, that raises	549
funds by selling foods and that, if required to be licensed,	550
would be classified as risk level one in accordance with rules	551
establishing licensing categories for retail food establishments	552
adopted under section 3717.33 of the Revised Code, if the sales	553
occur inside a building and are for not more than seven	554
consecutive days or more than fifty-two separate days during a	555
licensing period. This exemption extends to any individual or	556
group raising all of its funds during the time periods specified	557
in division (B)(4) of this section for the benefit of the	558
nonprofit organization by selling foods under the same	559
conditions.	560
(5) An establishment that offers food contained in	561

displays of less than live hundred square feet, and if required	362
to be licensed would be classified as risk level one pursuant to	563
rules establishing licensing categories for retail food	564
establishments adopted under section 3717.33 of the Revised	565
Code, on the condition that the establishment offers the food	566
for sale at retail not more than six months in each calendar	567
year;	568
(6) A cottage food production operation, on the condition	569
that the operation offers its products directly to the consumer	570
from the site where the products are produced;	571
(7) A tree syrup and sorghum processor, beekeeper, or	572
apple syrup and apple butter processor described in division (A)	573
of section 3715.021 of the Revised Code, on the condition that	574
the processor or beekeeper offers only tree syrup, sorghum,	575
honey, apple syrup, or apple butter directly to the consumer	576
from the site where those products are processed;	577
(8) A person who annually maintains five hundred or fewer	578
birds, on the condition that the person offers the eggs from	579
those birds directly to the consumer from the location where the	580
eggs are produced or at a farm product auction to which division	581
(B) (11) of this section applies;	582
(9) A person who annually raises and slaughters one	583
thousand or fewer chickens, on the condition that the person	584
offers dressed chickens directly to the consumer from the	585
location where the chickens are raised and slaughtered or at a	586
farm product auction to which division (B)(11) of this section	587
applies;	588
(10) A person who raises, slaughters, and processes the	589

meat of nonamenable species described in divisions (A) and (B)

of section 918.12 of the Revised Code, on the condition that the	591
person offers the meat directly to the consumer from the	592
location where the meat is processed or at a farm product	593
auction to which division (B)(11) of this section applies;	594
(11) A farm product auction, on the condition that it is	595
registered with the director pursuant to section 3717.221 of the	596
Revised Code that offers for sale at the farm product auction	597
only one or more of the following:	598
(a) The products described in divisions (B)(8) to (10) of	599
this section that are produced, raised, slaughtered, or	600
processed, as appropriate, by persons described in divisions (B)	601
(8) to (10) of this section;	602
(b) Fresh unprocessed fruits or vegetables;	603
(c) Products of a cottage food production operation or	604
<pre>microenterprise home kitchen operation;</pre>	605
(d) Tree syrup, sorghum, honey, apple syrup, or apple	606
butter that is produced by a tree syrup or sorghum producer,	607
beekeeper, or apple syrup or apple butter processor described in	608
division (A) of section 3715.021 of the Revised Code.	609
(12) An establishment that, with respect to offering food	610
for sale, offers only alcoholic beverages or prepackaged	611
beverages that are not potentially hazardous;	612
(13) An establishment that, with respect to offering food	613
for sale, offers only alcoholic beverages, prepackaged beverages	614
that are not potentially hazardous, or commercially prepackaged	615
food that is not potentially hazardous, on the condition that	616
the commercially prepackaged food is contained in displays, the	617
total space of which equals less than two hundred cubic feet on	618
the premises of the establishment:	610

(14) An establishment that, with respect to offering food	620
for sale, offers only fountain beverages that are not	621
potentially hazardous;	622
(15) A person who offers for sale only one or more of the	623
following foods at a festival or celebration, on the condition	624
that the festival or celebration is organized by a political	625
subdivision of the state and lasts for a period not longer than	626
seven consecutive days:	627
seven consecutive days.	02,
(a) Fresh unprocessed fruits or vegetables;	628
(b) Products of a cottage food production operation or	629
microenterprise home kitchen operation;	630
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(c) Tree syrup, sorghum, honey, apple syrup, or apple	631
butter if produced by a tree syrup or sorghum processor,	632
beekeeper, or apple syrup or apple butter processor as described	633
in division (A) of section 3715.021 of the Revised Code;	634
(d) Commercially prepackaged food that is not potentially	635
hazardous, on the condition that the food is contained in	636
displays, the total space of which equals less than one hundred	637
cubic feet;	638
(e) Fruit butter produced at the festival or celebration	639
and sold from the production site.	640
and sold from the production site.	010
(16) A farm market on the condition that it is registered	641
with the director pursuant to section 3717.221 of the Revised	642
Code that offers for sale at the farm market only one or more of	643
the following:	644
(a) Fresh unprocessed fruits or vegetables;	645
(b) Products of a cottage food production operation or	646
microenterprise home kitchen operation;	647

(c) Tree syrup, sorghum, honey, apple syrup, or apple	648
butter that is produced by a tree syrup or sorghum producer,	649
beekeeper, or apple syrup or apple butter processor described in	650
division (A) of section 3715.021 of the Revised Code;	651
(d) Commercially prepackaged food that is not potentially	652
hazardous, on the condition that the food is contained in	653
displays, the total space of which equals less than one hundred	654
cubic feet on the premises where the person conducts business at	655
the farm market;	656
(e) Cider and other juices manufactured on site at the	657
<pre>farm market;</pre>	658
(f) The products or items described in divisions (B)(8) to	659
(10) of this section, on the condition that those products or	660
items were produced by the person offering to sell them, and	661
further conditioned that, with respect to eggs offered, the	662
person offering to sell them annually maintains five hundred or	663
fewer birds, and with respect to dressed chickens offered, the	664
person annually raises and slaughters one thousand or fewer	665
chickens.	666
(17)(a) An establishment to which all of the following	667
apply:	668
(i) The establishment has been issued an A-2 permit under	669
section 4303.03 of the Revised Code or an A-2f permit under	670
section 4303.031 of the Revised Code, annually produces ten	671
thousand gallons or less of wine, and sells that wine in	672
accordance with Chapter 4303. of the Revised Code on the	673
premises of the establishment.	674
(ii) The establishment serves unopened commercially	675
prepackaged food, other than wine.	676

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(iii) The amount of the establishment's commercially	677
prepackaged food sales, other than wine sales, for the previous	678
calendar year did not exceed five per cent of the	679
establishment's total gross receipts.	680
(b) The owner or operator of the establishment shall	681
notify the director that it is exempt from licensure because it	682
qualifies under division (B)(17)(a) of this section. The owner	683
or operator also shall display a notice in a place conspicuous	684
to all of its guests informing them that the establishment is	685
not required to be licensed as a retail food establishment.	686
(18) A microenterprise home kitchen operation that sells	687
and delivers food in accordance with section 3715.026 of the	688
Revised Code.	689
Section 2. That existing sections 3715.01, 3715.021,	690
3715.022, 3715.023, and 3717.22 of the Revised Code are hereby	691

repealed.

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