



Kentucky State Legislature:

We write you today to urge you to legalize home baking businesses in Kentucky.

Home baking businesses give entrepreneurs an opportunity to sell food prepared in their home kitchens. We are requesting that legislation be drawn up in Kentucky that would legalize the limited sale of home-based goods that do not require refrigeration---like cookies and cupcakes. Home based baking is a way for entrepreneurs to get started right away without having to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on professional equipment and commercial kitchen space. States across the country have embraced these businesses as job creators and revenue generators, but Kentucky is one of only 2 states with cottage food laws that ban home baking businesses.

Under Kentucky's current laws, aspiring bakers in search of an affordable way to start a small business using their culinary skills cannot realize their dreams. Home bakers are hardworking entrepreneurs who should have the opportunity to operate legally. Customers should have the freedom to buy delicious treats prepared by their neighbors. Don't let Kentucky become the last in line to legalize this growing industry.

Home bakers across the state are banding together to advocate for bills to be brought forth that will allow home bakers to sell their goods safely and legally. We propose a bill that gives us the right to:

1. We want the right to sell homemade food products, that do not require refrigeration. (i.e: non-potentially hazardous foods).
2. The local health department may inspect the kitchen annually, but it is not a requirement.
3. Just like farmers, we would register with the KCHS Food Safety Branch, and have this renewed annually with no fee to register.
4. No water testing requirements for public water users. If there is a private water source, they must have it tested and approved.
5. No commercial kitchen restrictions.
6. To be able to sell directly to the consumer, farmers markets, & charity bake sales.
7. We would like to see the cap on home sales at \$50,000.
8. Allow for inspection if a valid complaint is filed from the health department, with advanced notice in writing.
9. We would agree to a food safety or food handlers class whether it is online or in a classroom setting. We ask for an initial grace period to complete the class. We also ask that the cost/burden to the home baker be minimal. Online option would be preferred for easy renewal and accessibility for people in rural areas.
10. No pets allowed in food processing areas while food is being prepared.
11. Food labeling requirements.



12. Kitchens can have no more than two non-commercial ranges, ovens, or double-ovens, and no more than three refrigerators.
13. Foods for the business must be kept separate to those for residential use.
14. We would like the option for online sales and shipping. This would be beneficial for bakers who make cookies or breads.
15. No workshop attendance or recipe approval requirement.

Small businesses are a vital part of our state's economy. Passing home baking legislation would allow parents looking for an additional revenue stream to supplement family expenses without having to worry about childcare expenses. Retirees could supplement their fixed income and stay productive. Pastry school graduates could try out their recipes and build a customer base while saving toward a full commercial kitchen space. These local small businesses could generate business for local growers and suppliers who provide raw materials for baking. The next "Ace of Cakes" might be able to get their start in their own home, just like Duff Goldman did before opening Charm City Cakes in Baltimore.

When states legalize home baking businesses they see job creation and economic growth, and they see that these businesses are completely safe and pose no threat to public health. That would be good news for our state. Passing new home baking legislation will encourage job creation and innovation, cultivate entrepreneurs selling wholesome, fresh food, and allow Kentucky to join nearly every other state in the country.

We are confident that with our growing support from across the state, we can pass new legislation and allow Kentucky's baker entrepreneurs to serve delicious and safe homemade treats to customers, provide for their families, and stimulate our local economy. Please support the creation of new bills, which will allow home bakers to claim their piece of the American Dream and contribute to the economic and cultural fabric of the Bluegrass State.

Sincerely,

The Kentucky Home Bakers and the undersigned: