



Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT DOES HOME BAKING MEAN?

Home baking is just that: baking goods, such as cookies, cakes and muffins, in a home kitchen. Home baking are legally businesses in 48 states, with the exception of Wisconsin (a lawsuit is ongoing) and New Jersey.

HOW DO WE FIX THIS?

The NJ Legislature is considering a bill that would legalize the sale of home-baked goods that do not require refrigeration—like cookies and cupcakes. The bill has little opposition, with one exception. Senator Joseph Vitale is blocking the senate version of the bill from moving out of his committee. Hundreds of home bakers across the state have joined together to form a coalition committed to getting this bill passed, but we need your support.

WHY SHOULD I CARE?

Imagine getting to order grandma's homemade cookies on demand! If allowed to operate, home baking businesses can provide additional income to families and pay taxes. Home bakers also have the flexibility to make small batches of goods and cater to food allergies and dietary restrictions. People who live far from traditional bakeries can buy locally. Plus, home bakers are likely to source locally, buying ingredients and supplies from other small businesses.

WHAT DOES THE BILL SAY?

It allows home bakers to sell up to \$50,000 worth of "not potentially hazardous" foods (foods that do not require refrigeration and pose no inherent threat to safety) each year. All home bakers and anyone assisting them with their baking will need a food handler's certificate. You can read the full text by looking up Assembly Bill A3618 and Senate Bill S1768 (the text is the same in both).

HOW DO I KNOW THE FOOD IS SAFE?

The types of baked goods we want to sell are safe and do not need to be refrigerated, like cookies, cakes, and muffins. This bill will allow us to sell these goods as long as our customers know the items were made in a home kitchen. These very same goods can be sold and eaten at charity bake sales, so it's not a question of health and safety. Again, these businesses are legal in 48 states!



ARE THERE LIMITS ON WHAT OR HOW MUCH HOME BAKERS CAN SELL?

Yes. The bill caps revenue at \$50,000 per year and only allows goods that do not require refrigeration like cookies, cupcakes and cake pops.

WILL THIS BE BAD FOR TRADITIONAL BAKERIES?

Our businesses will be limited by the revenue cap and by the nature of our business model, so there will still be demand for traditional bakeries. We can only fill so many orders from our home kitchens. It's not the government's place to restrict competition and that's what this ban does.

WHAT IS GOING ON WITH THE BILL?

Both the Assembly (A3618) and Senate (S1768) versions of our bill have been introduced and referred to committee. We're working hard to pressure the Legislature to push our bill through the necessary hearings so that it can be brought to a vote before this legislative session ends on January 10, 2017.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

Sign our Change.org petition. Call your legislator. Tell your friends. If you are connected with an organization that might be interested in this issue, ask them to sign our coalition letter. Join our mailing list and attend a public rally when the time comes.

For more information visit <http://www.njhomebakersbill.org/>.