

**SB197 INTRODUCED**



1 SB197  
2 4UGNF3R-1  
3 By Senator Roberts  
4 RFD: County and Municipal Government  
5 First Read: 21-Jan-26



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4     SYNOPSIS:

5                 Under existing law, food trucks and similar  
6     mobile food vendors may be required to undergo  
7     inspections by local health officials and fire or  
8     building code officials in the various counties and  
9     municipalities in which the mobile food vendors  
10    temporarily operate.

11                This bill would require mobile food vendors to  
12    periodically undergo one health inspection and one fire  
13    inspection that would apply statewide. This would  
14    exempt mobile food vendors from obtaining individual  
15    health and fire inspections from local jurisdictions  
16    when the mobile food vendor travels throughout the  
17    state.

18                This bill would also require the State Fire  
19    Marshal to establish a statewide uniform fire  
20    inspection process for all mobile food vendors in the  
21    state and maintain a list of jurisdictions authorized  
22    to conduct mobile food unit fire inspections.

23                This bill would also provide criminal penalties  
24    for mobile food vendors who operate without health and  
25    fire inspection certificates.

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A BILL



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29 TO BE ENTITLED  
30 AN ACT

32 Relating to food trucks and other mobile food vendors;  
33 to exempt mobile food vendors from obtaining individual health  
34 and fire inspections in various locations throughout the state  
35 in order to operate, so long as the vendors periodically  
36 undergo one health and one fire inspection that apply  
37 statewide; to require the State Fire Marshal to establish a  
38 statewide uniform fire inspection process for mobile food  
39 vendors and to maintain a list of certifying fire inspectors;  
40 and to provide for criminal penalties for  
41 violations.

42 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

43                   Section 1. (a) As used in this section, the following  
44    terms have the following meanings:

45 (1) CERTIFYING FIRE OFFICIAL. The State Fire Marshal or  
46 a local fire department authorized to conduct fire safety  
47 inspections under subdivision (c) (1).

52 (3) IFC 319. Section 319 of the 2021 International Fire  
53 Code relating to mobile food preparation vehicles, or its  
54 successor.

55 (4) MOBILE FOOD UNIT. A mobile food service  
56 establishment from which a vendor prepares, cooks, sells, or



57 serves food. The term includes any mobile food establishment  
58 regulated by the Alabama Department of Public Health,  
59 including any structure housed on a motor vehicle chassis or  
60 vessel or on a trailer that a motor vehicle pulls to transport  
61 the cooking equipment or food service establishment, or a cart  
62 used for food services which is not motorized.

63 (b) (1) On and after January 1, 2027, a mobile food unit  
64 that holds a valid health inspection certificate and a valid  
65 fire inspection certificate in accordance with subsection (c)  
66 shall be exempt from any further health or fire safety  
67 inspections that are or would otherwise be required by the  
68 governing body of a county or municipality or political  
69 subdivision thereof as a condition to operating the mobile  
70 food unit in that local jurisdiction; provided, however, a  
71 county health department or certifying fire official may: (i)  
72 inspect a mobile food unit at any time while in operation; and  
73 (ii) order the mobile food unit to immediately cease  
74 operations if a significant health violation or life safety  
75 violation is discovered.

76 (2) The health inspection and certification described  
77 in subdivision (1) shall be conducted by the county health  
78 department in the jurisdiction where the mobile food unit's  
79 commissary is located. The fire inspection and certification  
80 shall be conducted by any fire official of a local fire  
81 department in the state authorized pursuant to subdivision  
82 (c) (1).

83 (c) (1) The State Fire Marshal shall maintain a list of  
84 local fire departments in the state that are authorized by the



85 State Fire Marshal to conduct fire inspections pursuant to  
86 this section.

87 (2) The State Fire Marshal shall establish a uniform  
88 statewide fire safety inspection process for mobile food units  
89 to ensure compliance with all state adopted codes and  
90 standards. The fire safety inspection shall be in compliance  
91 with IFC 319 and shall ensure, at a minimum, that:

92 a. All hoods and hood suppression systems comply with  
93 the requirements of NFPA 96;

94 b. Hood suppression systems are serviced and tagged at  
95 least every six months;

96 c. Hood cleaning is performed and tagged at least every  
97 six months;

98 d. All LP-gas systems comply with NFPA 58 and IFC 319;

99 e. An annual LP-gas pressure test is performed by a gas  
100 fitter certified by the Alabama Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board;

101 f. Plumbing for LP-gas is installed in compliance with  
102 NFPA 58; and

103 g. All electrical appliances comply with NFPA 70.

104 (3) A mobile food vendor unit shall maintain and make  
105 available all records for equipment and maintenance.

106 (4) Any modification or alteration of an appliance,  
107 operating procedure, or safety equipment of a mobile food unit  
108 may void a fire inspection certificate.

109 (5) A fire inspection certificate shall be valid for a  
110 six-month period.

111 (6) Significant violations shall be addressed by the  
112 certifying fire official and referred to the State Fire



113 Marshal.

114 (d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the  
115 governing body of a county or municipality or political  
116 subdivision thereof from requiring a mobile food unit, as a  
117 condition of operating in that jurisdiction, to comply with  
118 any ordinance or regulation, including requiring a business  
119 license.

120 (e) To the extent that a mobile food unit is required  
121 by law, rule, regulation, or ordinance to undergo a health or  
122 fire safety inspection, whether state or local, as a condition  
123 to operate in a specific jurisdiction, this section shall  
124 supersede any such provision but shall otherwise be construed  
125 in pari materia with other state and local laws.

126 (f) On and after January 1, 2027, the owner of a mobile  
127 food unit who operates a mobile food unit or allows the mobile  
128 food unit to operate without a valid health inspection  
129 certificate and a valid fire inspection certificate issued  
130 pursuant to this section shall be guilty of a Class C  
131 misdemeanor. Upon a second or subsequent violation, the owner  
132 shall be prohibited from operating the mobile food unit for a  
133 period of 30 days.

134 (g) Nothing in this section shall prevent a health  
135 officer or fire safety officer from inspecting a mobile food  
136 unit and taking other appropriate measures if he or she  
137 reasonably believes there is an immediate risk to public  
138 health or safety.

139 Section 2. This act shall become effective on July 1,  
140 2026.