

SB197 ENROLLED



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



SB197 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

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4 Relating to food trucks and other mobile food vendors;
5 to exempt mobile food vendors from obtaining individual health
6 and fire inspections in various locations throughout the state
7 in order to operate, so long as the vendors periodically
8 undergo one health and one fire inspection that apply
9 statewide; to require the State Fire Marshal to establish a
10 statewide uniform fire inspection process for mobile food
11 vendors and to maintain a list of certifying fire inspectors;
12 and to provide for criminal penalties for
13 violations.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

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

20 (2) COMMISSARY. A food service establishment permitted
21 by the Alabama Department of Public Health to which a mobile
22 food unit returns after operating for the day for servicing
23 and resupplying.

24 (3) IFC MOBILE FOOD PREPARATION VEHICLES PROVISIONS.
25 The International Fire Code provisions for mobile food
26 preparation vehicles as adopted by the Alabama Department of
27 Insurance for State Fire Marshal regulations.

28 (4) MOBILE FOOD UNIT. A mobile food service



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29 establishment from which a vendor prepares, cooks, sells, or
30 serves food. The term includes any mobile food establishment
31 regulated by the Alabama Department of Public Health,
32 including any structure housed on a motor vehicle chassis or
33 vessel or on a trailer that a motor vehicle pulls to transport
34 the cooking equipment or food service establishment, or a cart
35 used for food services which is not motorized.

36 (b) (1) On and after January 1, 2027, a mobile food unit
37 that holds a valid health inspection certificate and a valid
38 fire inspection certificate in accordance with subsection (c)
39 shall be exempt from any further health or fire safety
40 inspections that are or would otherwise be required by the
41 governing body of a county or municipality or political
42 subdivision thereof as a condition to operating the mobile
43 food unit in that local jurisdiction; provided, however, a
44 county health department or certifying fire official may: (i)
45 inspect a mobile food unit at any time while in operation; and
46 (ii) order the mobile food unit to immediately cease
47 operations if a significant health violation or life safety
48 violation is discovered.

49 (2) The health inspection and certification described
50 in subdivision (1) shall be conducted by the county health
51 department in the jurisdiction where the mobile food unit's
52 commissary is located. The fire inspection and certification
53 shall be conducted by any fire official of a local fire
54 department in the state authorized pursuant to subdivision
55 (c) (1).

56 (c) (1) The State Fire Marshal shall maintain a list of



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57 local fire departments in the state that are authorized by the
58 State Fire Marshal to conduct fire inspections pursuant to
59 this section.

60 (2) The State Fire Marshal shall establish a uniform
61 statewide fire safety inspection process for mobile food units
62 to ensure compliance with all state adopted codes and
63 standards. The fire safety inspection shall be in compliance
64 with IFC Mobile Food Preparation Vehicles provisions and shall
65 ensure, at a minimum, that:

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

68 b. Hood suppression systems are serviced and tagged at
69 least every six months;

70 c. Hood cleaning is performed and tagged at least every
71 six months;

72 d. All LP-gas systems comply with NFPA 58 and IFC
73 Mobile Food Preparation Vehicles provisions;

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

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

78 g. All electrical appliances comply with NFPA 70.

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

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

84 (5) A fire inspection certificate shall be valid for a



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85 six-month period.

86 (6) Significant violations shall be addressed by the
87 certifying fire official and referred to the State Fire
88 Marshal.

89 (d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the
90 governing body of a county or municipality or political
91 subdivision thereof from requiring a mobile food unit, as a
92 condition of operating in that jurisdiction, to comply with
93 any ordinance or regulation, including requiring a business
94 license.

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

101 (f) On and after January 1, 2027, the owner of a mobile
102 food unit who operates a mobile food unit or allows the mobile
103 food unit to operate without a valid health inspection
104 certificate and a valid fire inspection certificate issued
105 pursuant to this section shall be guilty of a Class C
106 misdemeanor. Upon a second or subsequent violation, the owner
107 shall be prohibited from operating the mobile food unit for a
108 period of 30 days.

109 (g) Nothing in this section shall prevent a health
110 officer or fire safety officer from inspecting a mobile food
111 unit and taking other appropriate measures if he or she
112 reasonably believes there is an immediate risk to public



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113 health or safety.

114 Section 2. This act shall become effective on July 1,

115 2026.



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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SB197
Senate 19-Feb-26
I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed
the Senate, as amended.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Passed: 02-Apr-26

By: Senator Roberts