

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

HB 217 - Summary of changes from Version O to N ALASKA FOOD FREEDOM ACT

Goals of HB 217

Create more opportunities for small scale producers, strengthen our local food systems, and grow our local economies.

In an effort to provide more clarity on the types of food products that will be allowed to be sold online through Section 5 of this bill, the following revisions have been made from HB 217 version O to Version U:

Changes to Section 5, amending AS 17.20

The Department of Environmental Conservation has regulations (18 AAC 31.012) allowing “cottage foods” – food products with low health risks that are made in a non-permitted kitchen (such as jams, breads, etc). Alaska’s “cottage food” industry is meant to help the small farmer, or a farmer who wants to test a new food product to see if it is marketable. Once they start making more than \$25,000 in sales, they need to make their product in a DEC-certified kitchen.

Page 2, line 30: Adds “Unless necessary to prevent immediate harm to public health or public safety,” – this will clarify to DEC that they can intervene on cottage food sales in the case of a food-borne illness.

Page 3 line 8, removed references to meat, poultry and live animals intended for slaughter

Page 3, line 12, changed labeling language to match DEC’s labeling language in their regulations

Page 3, lines 20-23, allows DEC to investigate a food borne illness in these foods, and allows them to test for acidity and alkalinity in food products

Page 3, lines 24-25, requires these cottage food products to be subject to 11 other food safety laws including adulterated food, misbranding of food, mislabeling, contaminated food, etc.

Page 3, lines 26-27, removes foods that contain meat, fish, shellfish or raw milk.

Page 4, lines 4-6, new definition of farmers’ market to discourage “fake” farmers markets that do not sell Alaska Grown products

Changes to Sections 6-13, amending agricultural and fisheries product preferences

Increases the preference from 7% to 15%