

ASSEMBLY, No. 503

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JAY WEBBER

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

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District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Giblin, Rooney, DiMaio, Auth, Space and Wirths

SYNOPSIS

Concerns baked goods sold at farm markets.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/22/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning baked goods sold at farm markets and
2 amending R.S.51:1-17.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. R.S.51:1-17 is amended to read as follows:

8 51:1-17. All articles of food, other than liquids, which are
9 capable of being measured **by dry capacity measure and which**
10 **heretofore have been** and are sold by dry capacity measure in this
11 State shall, except as hereinafter provided, be offered for sale or
12 sold upon the basis of avoirdupois net weight or by numerical count
13 only, and it shall be unlawful for anyone to use or employ any dry
14 capacity measure, basket, barrel or container of any kind as a means
15 of determining the amounts or quantities of **any such** the articles
16 of food offered for sale or sold. The provisions of this section shall
17 not be construed to apply to:

18 a. Fruits and vegetables offered for sale or sold in closed or
19 covered standard containers; **or**

20 b. Articles of food offered for sale **by bona fide farmers in any**
21 **farmers' public** at a farm market, **in open or uncovered standard**
22 **containers,** which articles may be transferred to a bag or other
23 suitable receptacle when **such** the transfer is agreeable to **,** and
24 made in the presence of **,** the buyer, by (1) bona fide farmers in
25 open or uncovered standard containers, or (2) producers of baked
26 goods in covered or wrapped containers for health or sanitation
27 purposes; **or**

28 c. Vegetables which by common custom are offered for sale or
29 sold by the bunch; or

30 d. Fresh berries and other small fruits, which are customarily
31 offered for sale and sold by the box, basket or other receptacle,
32 except, however, when **such** the fresh berries and other small
33 fruits are offered for sale or sold in bulk, in which case the
34 provisions of this section shall apply to the extent that **such** the
35 fresh berries and other small fruits shall be offered for sale and sold
36 by avoirdupois net weight only, but all fresh berries and **such**
37 other small fruits **,** when offered for sale or sold **shall be so**
38 offered for sale or sold in boxes, baskets or receptacles of uniform
39 size to hold one quart or one pint dry measure only, uniformly and
40 evenly filled throughout.

41 As used in this section:

42 “Bona fide farmers” means agriculturists or growers of fruits and
43 vegetables who actually produce the commodities they sell and who
44 are registered with the Department of Agriculture or a county agent
45 or board of agriculture.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 “Dry capacity measure” means only bushel, half-bushel, peck,
2 half-peck, quarter-peck, quart, pint, half-pint, and similar measures.

3 “Producer” includes a baker of freshly baked or made products,
4 including, but not limited to, cakes, cookies, desserts, muffins,
5 pastries, pies, treats, or other baked goods, excluding bread.

6 “Standard container” means only barrels, boxes, baskets,
7 hampers or similar containers, the dimensions or capacity of which
8 is established by law of this State or by Act of Congress, and upon
9 which is plainly and conspicuously marked the net quantity of
10 contents thereof in terms of weight, measure or numerical count.

11 **【“Bona fide farmers” means agriculturists or growers of fruits**
12 **and vegetables who actually produce the commodities they sell and**
13 **who are registered as such either with the State Department of**
14 **Agriculture or with any county agent or board of agriculture.】**

15 Any person violating any of the provisions of this section shall,
16 for the first offense, be liable to a penalty of not less than **【\$50.00**
17 **nor】** \$50 or more than **【\$100.00】** \$100, for a second offense to a
18 penalty of not less than **【\$100.00 nor】** \$100 or more than
19 **【\$250.00】** \$250, and for each subsequent offense to a penalty of not
20 less than **【\$250.00 nor】** \$250 or more than **【\$500.00】** \$500.

21 (cf: P.L.1977, c.201, s.1)

22

23 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

27

28 This bill allows producers to sell their freshly-baked products at
29 farm markets in wrapped or covered containers, for sanitation
30 purposes, without being weighed.

31 Under current law, all articles of food which are capable of being
32 measured and sold by dry capacity measure are based on the
33 avoirdupois net weight or numerical count only and sold
34 accordingly. An exception to this measurement requirement is
35 articles of food offered for sale by bona fide farmers at a farm
36 market, but only if the food is in open or uncovered standard
37 containers. This requirement puts producers of baked goods, such
38 as “Baked with Jersey Fresh” and “Made with Jersey Fresh”
39 products, who sell their products at farm markets at a disadvantage,
40 because they are required to weigh their hand-crafted products,
41 unlike their counterparts in retail shops and local bakeries.