

## **Food Related Legislation, Passed 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislative Session**

**HB 1 by Rep. Jim Pitts (appropriations bill):** \$2.9 million passed for the Texans Feeding Texans Surplus Ag Grant Program. \$18 million passed for the Home Delivered Meals Program. \$300,000 passed for the Brighter Bites Program.

**HB 749 by Rep. Richard Raymond:** HB 749 mandates the Texas Department of Agriculture work with Texas Hunger Initiative on a five year plan for Summer Food Service Program participation.

**HB 970 by Rep. Eddie Rodriguez:** Last session, the Texas Legislature provided that “cottage food producers” could make specific low-risk foods in their homes and sell directly to consumers, up to \$50,000 per year, without being regulated by the state and local health departments. HB 970 expands the “cottage foods” law to include other foods designated as non-potentially hazardous by the FDA. The bill also removes the restriction that the sale has to occur at the person’s home, allowing the seller and buyer to connect at farmers markets, farm stands, and nonprofit community events.

**HB 1382 by Rep. David Simpson:** HB 1382 provides clear, reasonable standards for sampling at farmers’ markets and farm stands. The bill also clarifies the standards for cooking demonstrations at farmers’ markets, and exempts educational cooking demonstrations from permit fees. This legislation makes it easier for merchants at farmers’ markets to provide samples.

**HB 1392 by Rep. Susan King:** HB 1392 directs DSHS to communicate with farmers and food producers in a better way, and respond to inquiries about how the law applies to a farmer’s or food producer’s specific facts within 30 days. This will allow those farmers and producers to better comply with the law in good faith.

**HB 2111 by Mark Strama:** HB 2111 requires foster care providers to include within the required experiential life skills training food preparation and nutrition education. This is applicable to youth aging out of foster care.

**SB 376 by Senator Eddie Lucio and Rep. Eddie Rodriguez:** SB 376 mandates schools with 80% or more free and reduced price-eligible population serve breakfast free of charge to all students at that campus. This is through the National School Breakfast Program administered by USDA, whereby schools receive a reimbursement rate for every meal served.