
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 152 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY J. WARD, PHILLIPS-HILL, STEFANO, MASTRIANO, MARTIN
AND HUTCHINSON, JANUARY 19, 2023

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, JANUARY 19, 2023

AN ACT

1 Repealing the act of September 1, 1965 (P.L.420, No.215),
2 entitled "An act for the protection of the public health, and
3 to prevent fraud and deception in the manufacture, sale,
4 offering for sale, exposing for sale, and possession with
5 intent to sell, of adulterated or deleterious frozen
6 desserts, providing for licensing, authorizing and regulating
7 the manufacture and sale of frozen desserts, conferring
8 powers and imposing duties upon the Department of
9 Agriculture, prescribing penalties, providing for the
10 enforcement thereof, and making repeals."

11 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
12 hereby enacts as follows:

13 Section 1. The act of September 1, 1965 (P.L.420, No.215),
14 known as The Frozen Dessert Law, is repealed:

15 [AN ACT

16 For the protection of the public health, and to prevent fraud
17 and deception in the manufacture, sale, offering for sale,
18 exposing for sale, and possession with intent to sell, of
19 adulterated or deleterious frozen desserts, providing for
20 licensing, authorizing and regulating the manufacture and
21 sale of frozen desserts, conferring powers and imposing
22 duties upon the Department of Agriculture, prescribing

1 penalties, providing for the enforcement thereof, and making
2 repeals.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Declaration of Policy; Definitions.--(a) It is
6 hereby declared that the dairy industry is a paramount industry
7 of the Commonwealth and the production, processing, packaging,
8 distribution and sale of frozen desserts is an important segment
9 of the dairy industry and is of vast economic importance to the
10 Commonwealth and of vital importance to the consuming public of
11 the Commonwealth, and which should be encouraged and promoted in
12 the public interest. It is further declared to be in the
13 interest of the dairy industry and of the consuming public that
14 there be uniformity of standards for frozen desserts as between
15 the various states and the Federal Government to the end that
16 there may be free movement of frozen desserts between the states
17 and to the end that the inefficiency, needless expense, and
18 confusion caused by differences in products sold under the same
19 name, and differences in labeling of identical products may be
20 eliminated.

21 It is further declared to be the purpose of this act to
22 promote honesty and fair dealing in the interest of consumers,
23 to insure fair competition as between the manufacturers and
24 distributors of the different products and to prevent confusion
25 and deception in the sale of all such products by establishing
26 definitions and standards of identity for such products, and by
27 providing for rules and regulations which will effect their
28 orderly marketing and insure uniform and proper sanitary
29 standards.

30 (b) (1) For the purpose of this act, and for any rules,

1 regulations, definitions, standards of identity, or labeling
2 requirements promulgated pursuant thereto, the term "frozen
3 desserts" shall be deemed to include ice cream, frozen custard,
4 french ice cream, french custard ice cream, artificially
5 sweetened ice cream, artificially sweetened ice milk, ice milk,
6 freezer made milk shakes, fruit sherbet, water ice, quiescently
7 frozen confection, quiescently frozen dairy confection, whipped
8 cream confection, bisque tortoni, mellorine frozen desserts as
9 all such products are commonly known, together with any mix used
10 in such frozen desserts and any products which are similar in
11 appearance, odor, or taste to such products or are prepared or
12 frozen as such products are customarily prepared or frozen,
13 whether made with dairy or non-dairy products but shall not
14 apply to such commonly known or designated bakery products as
15 frozen cakes and pastries, cream pies and fillings and toppings,
16 meringue pie fillings and toppings, cream and ice box pies,
17 fruit and custard pie fillings, boston cream pie fillings, cream
18 puff fillings and custards, eclair and napoleon fillings and
19 custards, or the like.

20 (2) For the purpose of this act, a "frozen dessert plant"
21 shall mean any place, premises or establishment where frozen
22 dessert is manufactured, prepared or processed for distribution
23 or sale.

24 Section 2. Sale, Possession, etc., of Adulterated or
25 Unregistered Products.--(a) It shall be unlawful for any person
26 by himself or by his agents, servants or employes, to sell,
27 offer for sale, expose for sale or have in possession with
28 intent to sell, any frozen dessert:

29 (1) Which is adulterated within the meaning of this act;

30 (2) Which is not registered with the Department of

1 Agriculture as required in this act. The possession of any such
2 non-registered product shall be deemed prima facie evidence of
3 an intent to sell the same: Provided, however, That such
4 establishments as hotels, dining rooms and boarding houses where
5 the above named products are produced and consumed only on the
6 premises need not register such products with the Department of
7 Agriculture.

8 (b) It shall be unlawful to import into this Commonwealth
9 for sale any of the above named products coated or uncoated,
10 unless the same are registered with and the manufacture thereof
11 has been licensed by the Department of Agriculture where
12 provided in this act.

13 Section 3. What Constitutes Adulteration.--Any frozen
14 dessert referred to in this act shall be deemed to be
15 adulterated within the meaning of this act if--

16 (1) It contains any substance or compound that is
17 deleterious to health.

18 (2) It contains any coloring substance deleterious to
19 health: Provided, however, That this clause shall not be
20 construed to prohibit the use of harmless coloring matter from a
21 list of permitted coloring material established by the
22 Department of Agriculture when such use does not conceal damage
23 or inferiority.

24 (3) It contains any deleterious flavoring matter or
25 flavoring matter not true to name.

26 (4) It is offered for sale from any container, compartment
27 or cabinet which contains any article other than frozen desserts
28 except that frozen desserts when properly wrapped or packaged by
29 the manufacturer and in unbroken packages or containers for
30 delivery to the consumer may be offered for sale from one or

1 more separate compartments of a refrigerated container or
2 cabinet of which other separate compartments contain properly
3 wrapped, unbroken and sealed packages of frozen foods ready for
4 delivery to the consumer.

5 (5) It falls below the standards of any of them fixed for
6 the particular product by the definition promulgated pursuant to
7 the authority granted by this act or is falsely labeled or
8 labeled contrary to regulations promulgated pursuant to this
9 act.

10 (6) It is manufactured under conditions not in conformity
11 with the provisions of section 6 of, or rules and regulations
12 promulgated by the department pursuant to, this act.

13 Section 6. Frozen Dessert Plants Sanitary Standards.--It
14 shall be unlawful to operate any frozen dessert plant unless it
15 shall be maintained and operated with strict regard for the
16 purity and wholesomeness of the products produced therein. The
17 entire establishment and its appertaining premises, including
18 fixtures, furnishings, machinery, apparatus, implements,
19 utensils, receptacles and all equipment used in production,
20 keeping, storing, handling or distributing shall be maintained
21 and operated in a clean, sanitary manner. The equipment,
22 containers and piping shall be constructed of a smooth nontoxic
23 impervious corrosion resistant material and fabricated in such a
24 manner that there will be no contamination of the products
25 handled therein and they can be easily sanitized. All equipment
26 shall be kept in good working order and condition and shall be
27 located so as to facilitate cleaning and practically eliminate
28 the possibility of contamination. All equipment and utensils
29 used in the production of any product whose surface comes in
30 contact with any such product or any of the ingredients thereof

1 shall be thoroughly cleaned after using and sterilized
2 immediately prior to using. The clothing habits and conduct of
3 the employes shall be conducive to and promote cleanliness and
4 sanitation. There shall be proper, suitable and adequate toilets
5 and lavatories and equipment for cleansing, constructed,
6 maintained and operated in a clean and sanitary manner.

7 Section 7. Registration and Licensing of Plants.--(a) It
8 shall be the duty of every person, whether resident or
9 nonresident of this Commonwealth, operating a frozen dessert
10 plant or plants, whose products are sold or offered for sale in
11 Pennsylvania, to apply to the Department of Agriculture for a
12 license to do so and to register with the department each plant
13 and every brand and type of product produced or manufactured in
14 such plant on or before the first day of January of each year,
15 or before any operation is undertaken, if after January first,
16 and to pay to the department at the time such application for
17 registration and license is filed an annual license fee which
18 shall expire on the following December thirty-first as follows:

19 For each frozen dessert plant producing annually not in
20 excess of one hundred thousand gallons, ten dollars (\$10); in
21 excess of one hundred thousand gallons and not in excess of two
22 hundred and fifty thousand gallons, fifty dollars (\$50); and in
23 excess of two hundred and fifty thousand gallons, one hundred
24 dollars (\$100).

25 (b) The application for a license and registration shall be
26 made on a form to be supplied by the Department of Agriculture.

27 (c) Upon approval of application for registration and
28 license and payment of required license fee and also approval of
29 sanitary conditions in a frozen dessert plant, the Department of
30 Agriculture shall issue to each applicant a license or

1 certificate of registration which shall expire at the end of
2 each calendar year and which will authorize the operation of
3 said plant for the calendar year or portion thereof for which a
4 license or certificate of registration shall be issued.

5 (d) Establishments such as hotels, dining rooms and boarding
6 houses where the products defined herein are produced and
7 consumed only on the premises need not comply with the licensing
8 and registration provisions of this act, but the other
9 provisions of this law and regulations passed pursuant thereto,
10 shall apply to such establishments.

11 Section 8. Revocation of Licenses.--The Department of
12 Agriculture is hereby authorized to revoke or suspend any
13 license for cause and where it shall be properly ascertained
14 that the frozen dessert plant is not operated in a proper and
15 sanitary manner.

16 Section 9. Enforcement; Rules and Regulations.--(a) The
17 Department of Agriculture is charged with the enforcement of the
18 provisions of this act: Provided, however, That the Department
19 of Agriculture in the usual manner, or any person, committee or
20 association composed of persons affected by this act or rules or
21 regulations of the Department of Agriculture may institute such
22 action at law or in equity as may appear necessary to enforce
23 compliance with this act or any rule, regulation, definition or
24 standard of identity of the Department made pursuant to the
25 provisions of this act.

26 (b) The Department of Agriculture shall, after public
27 hearing, adopt, promulgate and enforce definitions and standards
28 of identity for frozen desserts and the mixes used in the
29 manufacture thereof together with rules and regulations
30 governing the packaging, labeling, sanitary requirements and all

1 other conditions relating to the manufacture, processing,
2 distribution and sale of frozen desserts, whether manufactured
3 or processed in a regular manufacturing plant, in a counter
4 freezer or otherwise, to carry out the purposes of this act, to
5 prevent deception in the sale of frozen desserts and to
6 safeguard the health of consumers. All definitions and standards
7 of identity and rules and regulations promulgated by the
8 Department shall be based on the hearing record and following
9 any hearing to consider definitions and standards of identity,
10 rules and regulations and labeling requirements or any of these,
11 the Department shall issue a recommended decision and shall
12 afford interested parties an opportunity to file exceptions
13 based on the hearing record. The Department in issuing a final
14 decision shall rule on any exceptions filed, setting forth its
15 reasons therefor. Such regulations, when promulgated shall have
16 the force and effect of law. The Department is hereby authorized
17 to adopt insofar as applicable, the standards of identity and
18 definitions from time to time promulgated by the Secretary of
19 Health, Education and Welfare of the United States under the
20 Federal Act Defining and Standardizing Frozen Desserts.

21 Section 10. Violations; Punishment; Injunction.--(a) Any
22 person violating any of the provisions of this act or
23 definitions and standards of identity, rules or regulations made
24 pursuant thereto shall, for the first or second offense upon
25 conviction thereof in a summary proceeding, be sentenced to pay
26 a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25), nor more than
27 one hundred dollars (\$100), and costs of prosecution, or in
28 default of such fine and costs in the case of an individual, or
29 the officers and members of an association, partnership or
30 corporation, to undergo an imprisonment in the county jail of

1 not less than thirty days nor more than sixty days, and for a
2 third or subsequent offense within two years shall be guilty of
3 a misdemeanor and sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding one
4 thousand dollars (\$1000), or in the case of an individual or the
5 officers and members of an association, partnership or
6 corporation, to undergo an imprisonment not exceeding one year,
7 or both, in the discretion of the court.

8 All fines and penalties imposed and recovered for the
9 violation of the provisions of this act shall be paid into the
10 State Treasury through the Department of Revenue and credited to
11 the General Fund.

12 (b) The Attorney General, at the request of the department,
13 may in the name of the Commonwealth institute proceedings for
14 the purpose of enjoining the conduct of business in this
15 Commonwealth contrary to the provisions of this act.

16 Section 13. Short Title.--This act shall be known as and may
17 be cited as "The Frozen Dessert Law."

18 Section 13.1. Severability.--It is hereby declared to be the
19 legislative intent that if this act cannot take effect in its
20 entirety because of the decision of any court holding
21 unconstitutional any part, sentence or clause hereof, the
22 remaining provisions of the act shall be given full force and
23 effect as completely as if the part held unconstitutional had
24 not been included herein.

25 It is hereby declared as the intent of the Legislature that
26 every other part, sentence or clause of this act would have been
27 enacted had such unconstitutional provision not been included
28 herein.

29 Section 14. Effective Date.--This act shall take effect
30 immediately.]

1 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.