

SENATE BILL 148

By Pody

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40; Title 44; Title 47; Title 49 and Title 53, relative to cell-cultured food products.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 53-7-202, is amended by adding the following new subdivision:

() "Cell-cultured food product":

(A) Means a food product intended for use as human food that is produced without slaughter by growing, in a controlled environment, cells harvested from species amenable to the Federal Meat Inspection Act; the Federal Poultry Products Inspection Act; or cells harvested from shellfish species or big game, game birds, or fish, as those terms are defined in § 70-1-101; and

(B) Includes food or a food additive produced in the manner described in subdivision () (A) and used as an ingredient or component in a food;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 53-7-202, is amended by deleting subdivision (15) and substituting:

(15) "Meat":

(A) Means the edible part of the muscle of cattle, deer, sheep, swine, or goats that is skeletal or that is found in the tongue, in the diaphragm, in the heart, or in the esophagus, with or without the accompanying and overlying fat, and the portions of bone, skin, sinew, nerve, and blood vessels that normally accompany the muscle tissue and that are not separated from it in the process of dressing; and

(B) Does not include:

- (i) The muscle found in the lips, snout, or ears; or
- (ii) A cell-cultured food product;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 53-7-202, is amended by deleting subdivision (21) and substituting:

(21) "Poultry":

- (A) Means a live or slaughtered domesticated bird; and
- (B) Does not include a cell-cultured food product;

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, is amended by adding the following as a new part:

49-6-4601. Part definition.

As used in this part, "cell-cultured food product":

(1) Means a food product intended for use as human food that is produced without slaughter by growing, in a controlled environment, cells harvested from species amenable to the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. § 601 et seq.); the Federal Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. § 451 et seq.); or cells harvested from shellfish species or big game, game birds, or fish, as those terms are defined in § 70-1-101; and

(2) Includes food or a food additive produced in the manner described in subdivision (1) and used as an ingredient or component in a food.

49-6-4602. Prohibition on cell-cultured food products in school lunch programs.

An LEA or public charter school shall not offer or distribute a cell-cultured food product through the LEA's or public charter school's school nutrition program or another source through which the LEA or public charter school provides food to students.

49-6-4603. Remedy.

A parent who is affected, or whose student is affected, by a violation of this part may bring a civil action against the LEA or public charter school in a court of competent jurisdiction. The court in such action:

- (1) May award compensatory damages, injunctive relief, or any other appropriate relief to a prevailing party who establishes a violation of this part; and
- (2) Shall award court costs, expenses, and reasonable attorney fees to a prevailing party who establishes a violation of this part.

49-6-4604. Repeal.

This part terminates on July 1, 2035.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

49-7-190.

(a) As used in this section, "cell-cultured food product":

(1) Means a food product intended for use as human food that is produced without slaughter by growing, in a controlled environment, cells harvested from species amenable to the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. § 601 et seq.); the Federal Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. § 451 et seq.); or cells harvested from shellfish species or big game, game birds, or fish, as those terms are defined in § 70-1-101; and

(2) Includes food or a food additive produced in the manner described in subdivision (a)(1) and used as an ingredient or component in a food.

(b) A public institution of higher education shall not offer or distribute a cell-cultured food product in the institution's food service center or another source through which the institution provides food to students.

(c) A student who is affected by a violation of this section may bring a civil action against the public institution of higher education in a court of competent jurisdiction. The court in such action:

(1) May award compensatory damages, injunctive relief, or any other appropriate relief to a prevailing party who establishes a violation of this section; and

(2) Shall award court costs, expenses, and reasonable attorney fees to a prevailing party who establishes a violation of this section.

(d) This section terminates on July 1, 2035.

SECTION 6. The headings in this act are for reference purposes only and do not constitute a part of the law enacted by this act. However, the Tennessee Code Commission is requested to include the headings in any compilation or publication containing this act.

SECTION 7. This act takes effect July 1, 2025, the public welfare requiring it.