

SENATE BILL 1899

By Faulk

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 44
and Title 53, to enact the "Dairy Farmers
Prosperity Act".

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 44, is amended by adding
Sections 2 through 5 of this act as a new, appropriately designated chapter.

SECTION 2. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Dairy Farmers
Prosperity Act".

SECTION 3. The general assembly finds the following:

(1) The practice of dairying which once supported a prosperous and
numerous farm population in Tennessee has declined catastrophically, leaving
Tennessee with fewer than five hundred (500) dairy farms and unable to supply
even its own citizens with milk;

(2) Economic events threaten to ruin remaining dairymen and
especially small dairymen unless they are freed to sell their products to
willing consumers in their local communities;

(3) Present state government policy places regulatory barriers and
roadblocks to dairymen and prevents them from receiving profits taken by
middlemen, processors, and marketers. As a result, they receive an ever shrinking
and unfair proportion of the consumer's dollar; and

(4) This chapter will promote healthy local dairies, help rebuild their local economies, and
join local consumers to local producers, building local community and prosperity for all
Tennesseans.

SECTION 4.

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Dairyman" means an individual farmer or farm family who raises and milks goats or cows on a farm;

(2) "End Consumer" is the person or persons who will personally consume the products purchased and who occasionally secures or purchases milk products for such person's personal use at the place or farm where the milk is produced; and

(3) "Milk products" means unpasteurized goat's or cow's whole milk, skim milk, cream, butter, cheese, yogurt, buttermilk, or kefir.

SECTION 5.

(a) Any dairyman may sell milk products to end consumers, provided such milk products are raised and produced on the dairyman's own farm and sold from the dairyman's own property.

(b) Any dairyman who sells such milk products may not publicly advertise those sales.

(c) The end consumer must bring the consumer's own individual containers to the dairyman for filling on the dairyman's property.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.