

The Bill Emerson Food Donation Act

On October 1, 1996, President Clinton signed the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act to encourage the donation of food and grocery products to non-profit organizations for distribution to needy individuals.

To encourage the donation of food and grocery products to non-profit organizations for distribution to needy individuals by giving the Model Good Samaritan Food Donation Act the full force and effect of law.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Section 1. CONVERSION TO PERMANENT LAW OF MODEL GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD DONATION ACT AND TRANSFER OF THAT ACT TO CHILD NUTRITION ACT OF 1966.

(a) Conversion to Permanent Law.--Title IV of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 is amended B

1. By striking the title heading and sections 401 and 403 (42 U.S.C. 12671 and 12673); and
2. In section 402 (42 U.S.C. 12672)--
 - (A) In the section heading, by striking "model" and inserting "Bill Emerson"
 - (B) In subsection (a), by striking "Good Samaritan" and inserting "Bill Emerson Good Samaritan."
 - (C) In subsection (b)(7), to read as follow:
"(7) GROSS NEGLIGENCE.--The term 'gross negligence' means voluntary and conscious conduct (including a failure to act) by a person who, at the time of the conduct, knew that the conduct was likely to be harmful to the health or well-being of another person.",
 - (D) By striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:
"(c) LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES FROM DONATED FOOD AND GROCERY PRODUCTS."
 - "(1) LIABILITY OF PERSON OR GLEANER. -- A person or gleaner shall not be subject to civil or criminal liability arising from the nature, age, or packaging, or condition of apparently wholesome food or an apparently wholesome food or an apparently fit grocery product that the person or gleaner donated in good faith to a non-profit organization for ultimate distribution to needy individuals.
 - "(2) LIABILITY OF NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION.-- A non-profit organization shall not be subject to civil or criminal liability arising from the nature, age, packaging, or condition of apparently wholesome food or an apparently fit grocery product that the non-profit organization received as a donation in good faith from a person or gleaner for ultimate distribution to needy individuals.
 - "(3) EXCEPTION. -- Paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not apply to an injury to or death of an ultimate user or recipient of the food or grocery product that results from an act or omission of the person, gleaner or non-profit organization as applicable constituting gross negligence or intentional misconduct."; and
 - (E) In subsection (f), by adding at the end the following: "Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede State or local health regulations."