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MINORITY WHIP

Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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SB 838 – Public Health – Cottage Food Business and Home Bakeries

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes and member of the Finance Committee:

Senate Bill 838 was brought to me by a constituent currently engaged in the cottage baking business. He hopes to expand his business by adding items that require refrigeration, what is currently labeled as “potentially hazardous”. The list of these items is long but includes items like cheesecakes, custards, merengues, fresh fruit tarts, and pumpkin pies. Currently, to produce and sell these items, you must have access to a commercial kitchen that is licensed and inspected by the health department.

Working out of a commercial kitchen or commissary kitchen can be quite expensive and they often charge more for use of their equipment. Kitchens of this size are not available everywhere, creating a huge disadvantage. This arrangement would also require a catering license, which can cost from \$400 to \$1,000 depending on the county. The facilities also sometimes offer limited availability and are only open during business hours. Baking at home would eliminate these overhead costs and access disparities.

Ohio has a Home Bakery Law which requires a \$10 license. [\[1\]](#) This law allows your home to be recognized as a bakery and allows you to prepare perishable baked goods for sale. A "Home Bakery" is permitted to manufacture non-potentially hazardous bakery products (such as cookies, breads, brownies, cakes, fruit pies, etc.), and potentially hazardous bakery products (such as cheesecakes, cream pies, custard pies, pumpkin pies, etc.) which require refrigeration.

To help these small businesses that are so valuable to our community, I respectfully request a favorable vote on Senate Bill 838.