



Food Code Adoption Key Concerns for Legislators

Did you know? Foodborne illnesses cost the U.S. economy \$10-83 billion per year according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Are Foodborne Illnesses Poisoning Your Economy?

The Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Food Code is a set of food safety guidelines, based on the latest science, designed to control/prevent foodborne illnesses at the retail level. Adoption of the most recent version of the FDA Food Code can increase states' ability to control foodborne illness in restaurants, yet only about one-quarter of states have taken this key step.

Key concerns for legislators

- Why beef up your Food Code? Adopting the latest version of the Food Code helps states become proactive rather than reactive when it comes to tackling foodborne illnesses.
- Every voter eats, and every voter wants to eat safe food—according to International Food Information Council's 2021 Food & Health Survey more than 50% of Americans consider foodborne illness a top safety concern!
- As food delivery and retail food services continue to expand to meet consumer needs and eating habits, having a strong scientifically-based Food Code is crucial for managing risk factors that contribute to outbreaks of foodborne illness.
- States can bend the curve of foodborne illness. Get retail food establishments on the same page and streamline the enforcement process by adopting the most modern food safety standards.

Learn more about legislative action that states have taken by visiting NCSL's website at bit.ly/NCSLFoodCode.

Find detailed information about the status of food code adoption in your state and help modernize retail food safety programs in your jurisdiction by visiting the Retail Food Safety Regulatory Association Collaborative's website bit.ly/FCAdoptionTK.

Legislative Spotlight: North Carolina

In 2019, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted HB 735, which authorized the commission for public health to adopt rules incorporating all or part of the most recent edition of the FDA Food Code, bringing the state up to date with the most modern food safety standards.

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