

# Joint Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries

## Bill Summary

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<b>Bill Number:</b>	H.126
<b>Title:</b>	An Act establishing community fridges to address food insecurity
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Representative Gómez of Easthampton
<b>Cosponsors:</b>	Representative Arena-DeRosa of Holliston; Senator Eldridge
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 10:00 PM - 01:00 PM, B-1
<b>Reporting Date:</b>	Saturday, November 15th, 2025
<b>Similar Matters:</b>	S.62 (Senator Gomez - Identical)

### Prior History

2023-2024: Filed as S.44; Referred to the Joint Committee on Agriculture; Accompanied a new draft S.2760; Reported favorably to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means where no further action was taken.

### Current Law

Chapter 94 of the Massachusetts General Laws relates to the sale of food, drugs, and other articles. Section 328 of Chapter 94 regulates the civil liability of food donation, distribution, service, and preparation.

### Summary

This bill defines the term “community fridge.” The bill stipulates that every community fridge will be managed by an individual, nonprofit organization, or a designated government official, who is responsible for managing the cleanliness and sanitary condition of the fridge. The bill tasks the Department of Public Health with providing advisory guidelines for the safe and sanitary storage of food.

The placement of community fridges will be prioritized in areas of high food insecurity, including disproportionately impacted areas and food deserts. The bill requires community fridges to be equitably distributed throughout each geographic region of the Commonwealth.

The bill limits liability for civil damages among food establishments that distribute food at no charge, for injury related to the condition of the food provided.