

**Joint Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries**  
**Bill Summary**

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<b>Bill Number:</b>	H.140
<b>Title:</b>	An Act to promote economic opportunities for cottage food entrepreneurs
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Representative Uyterhoeven of Somerville
<b>Cosponsors:</b>	Senator Oliveira
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 1:00 PM - 05:00 PM, A-1
<b>Reporting Date:</b>	Sunday, September 7, 2025
<b>Similar Matters:</b>	H.114 (Representative Boldyga - Similar) S.69 (Senator Oliveira - Identical)

**Prior History**

2023-2024: Filed as H.758; Referred to the Joint Committee on Environment & Natural Resources; Discharged to the Joint Committee on Agriculture; Accompanied a new draft S.2761; Reported favorably to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means where no further action was taken.

2021-2022: Filed as H.862; Assigned to the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture; Accompanied study order H.5236.

**Current Law**

Chapter 94 of the Massachusetts General Laws relates to the inspection and sale of food, drugs, and various articles. Section 1 of chapter 94 defines the terms used in this chapter.

## Summary

This bill inserts the definitions for “cottage food operation” and “cottage food product.” The bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to establish rules for cottage food operations and the sale of cottage foods and that those rules are enforced by local boards of health. DPH must regulate categories of cottage food products that may be sold without requiring a permit from a local board of health. For cottage food products that require a permit, and if the local board of health requires a pre-operational inspection, the inspection must occur within 30 days of a person’s application for a permit. The bill allows DPH to issue cottage food permits if the local board of health does not issue such permits. This bill requires that cottage food operations be exempt from permitting, licensing, inspection, packaging, and labeling requirements for food establishments set by state law, the department of public health, and local boards of health. The bill will not exempt cottage food businesses from state or federal tax laws.

Cottage food operations must provide the following pieces of information on their labels, sign/placard at their point of sale, and or website: cottage food operations name, address or personal identification number (PIN), name of product, ingredients in descending order, and the following statement “This product was produced at a private residence that is exempt from Massachusetts licensing and inspection requirements. This product may contain allergens.”

The bill requires DPH to establish and maintain a voluntary cottage food operation registry. DPH may grant a cottage food operation with a PIN rather than sharing their address. PIN numbers will be issued to operations who have submitted their applications and paid the registration fee, the fee may not exceed \$25.

The cottage food operation will supply DPH with the following information for their records: the cottage food operator’s full name, address, primary telephone number, and primary email address. The cottage food operation will update the department if any of the aforementioned information changes. DPH will not require cottage food operations to register for a PIN. This bill will not impede DPH or local boards of health from investigating food borne illnesses.