



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 382

LCO No. 2198



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING EDIBLE FOOD RECOVERY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

2 (1) "Food distribution organization" means a nonprofit organization
3 that collects and distributes food to individuals for human
4 consumption;

5 (2) "Food recovery service" means an entity that collects and
6 transports food from a covered retail food establishment to a food
7 distribution organization;

8 (3) "Retail food establishment" means a commercial food wholesaler
9 or distributor, industrial food manufacturer or processor or
10 supermarket; and

11 (4) "Surplus edible food" means food intended for human
12 consumption that (A) is unsold due to surplus, cosmetic appearance,
13 nearing its expiration date or packaging damage that does not
14 compromise food safety, and (B) complies with all applicable food

15 safety standards.

16 (b) Not later than January 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Consumer
17 Protection, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health,
18 shall develop and implement guidelines for retail food establishments
19 in the state to donate surplus edible food to food distribution
20 organizations throughout the state using a food recovery service and
21 post such guidelines on the Department of Consumer Protection's
22 Internet web site.

23 (c) Not later than January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, each retail
24 food establishment shall report to the Commissioner of Consumer
25 Protection, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner,
26 regarding its donation of surplus edible food in accordance with the
27 guidelines developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

28 (d) Not later than February 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, the
29 Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall report, in accordance with
30 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, regarding the
31 donation of surplus edible food as reported by each retail food
32 establishment pursuant to subsection (c) of this section to the joint
33 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
34 matters relating to consumer protection and public health.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require the development of protocols regarding the donation of surplus edible food by retail food establishments to food distribution organizations.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]