

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Houston County

Georgia · Perry · FIPS 13153 · Population 164,117 · Crosodo Index #2676*

STATE BASELINE

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

STATE TIER

Okay

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-05

IMPORTANT – NOT LEGAL ADVICE

This report compiles publicly-available statutes, regulations, and county zoning rules into a research reference. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty** as to accuracy, completeness, or current applicability.

Cottage food law changes frequently. Counties may amend zoning, health departments may issue new permits, and state legislatures may update statutes after the publication date shown above.

Always verify rules directly with your state department of health/agriculture and your county health and planning offices before relying on them for any business or regulatory decision. Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.

GEORGIA: HOUSTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2676* · FIPS 13153 · Perry

Houston County

Population 164,117 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food rules. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted. Food handler certification (specific course) required. Must label 'NOT MADE IN A STATE-INSPECTED FACILITY.')

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state prohibition, but pets should be excluded from food prep areas per good manufacturing practices.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No county-specific cottage food overlay found. Houston County requires a business license for commercial activity. Home occupation rules vary by zoning district under Houston County's zoning ordinance.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (GDA may inspect upon consumer complaint or reported foodborne illness.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food rules. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted. Food handler certification (specific course) required. Must label 'NOT MADE IN A STATE-INSPECTED FACILITY.'

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state prohibition, but pets should be excluded from food prep areas per good manufacturing practices.

WATER SUPPLY

Private water supply (well) requires annual coliform bacteria testing per state rules.

HANDWASHING

Adequate handwashing required per GDA cottage food guidelines.

FOOD STORAGE

All cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; non-TCS foods only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Upon-complaint — GDA may inspect upon consumer complaint or reported foodborne illness.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay found. Houston County requires a business license for commercial activity. Home occupation rules vary by zoning district under Houston County's zoning ordinance.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under HB 398, sales permitted via wholesale, retail, online, and direct. Delivery allowed. No geographic sales restriction within Georgia; interstate sales now permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Houston County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); Houston County Code of Ordinances

RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county — no county-specific cottage food rules found. State baseline (GA HB 398, eff. July 2025) governs. Georgia’s 2025 law significantly expanded cottage food rights. No county URL provided in input; no Houston County-specific cottage food code identified in research.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/georgia/houston-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Houston County	Bibb County	Bleckley County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state prohibition, but pets should be excluded from food prep areas per good manufacturing practices.	No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practices apply.	Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	No	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Under HB 398, sales permitted via wholesale, retail, online, and direct. Delivery allowed. No geographic sales restriction within Georgia; ...	Under Georgia HB 398: wholesale, retail, online, and direct sales all permitted. Customer traffic to home occupation limited to one additio...	Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all pe...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food rules. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. ...	Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025): no license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, ...	Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify...
FOOD STORAGE	All cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; non-TCS foods only.	Non-TCS foods only; proper storage to prevent contamination.	Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence
POPULATION	164,117	156,554	12,413

State context — Georgia cottage food law

Houston County’s rules sit on top of Georgia’s state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19	ANNUAL SALES CAP —
REGISTRATION REQUIRED No	FOOD HANDLER CERT Yes (specific course)
KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint	DIRECT SALES ONLY No
INDIRECT SALES Yes — As of July 1, 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows wholesale, online, retail store, restaurant, and mail-order sales; third-party sellers must display cottage food products separately and label the section as products from residential kitchens exempt from state inspection.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Georgia cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

State dept cottage food page: <https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/georgia/>

Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Houston County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/georgia/houston-county-discuss>
