

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Liberty County

Georgia · Hinesville · FIPS 13179 · Population 65,550 ·
Crosodo Index #2737*

STATE BASELINE

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 1, 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: LIBERTY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2737* · FIPS 13179 · Hinesville

Liberty County

Population 65,550 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 1, 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

· MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Since July 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows almost any non-PHF food. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Food handler certification required. Private water source (well) requires annual coliform testing.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific prohibition under new law; good manufacturing practice applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Liberty County includes Hinesville (which has Fort Stewart military presence). No specific Liberty County cottage food home occupation permit identified. Contact Liberty County Planning & Zoning or Hinesville for requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based only under HB 398 (2025); no routine inspection)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Since July 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows almost any non-PHF food. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Food handler certification required. Private water source (well) requires annual coliform testing.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific prohibition under new law; good manufacturing practice applies
WATER SUPPLY	Annual coliform testing required if using a private water source (well)
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing facilities required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable foods; proper storage required

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (2025); no routine inspection
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Liberty County includes Hinesville (which has Fort Stewart military presence). No specific Liberty County cottage food home occupation permit identified. Contact Liberty County Planning & Zoning or Hinesville for requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed; wholesale, retail, online, restaurant sales all permitted since July 2025. Interstate sales also allowed under new law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under new law

Relevant county code

Contact Liberty County Planning or Hinesville City for local zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. No license or fee; complaint-based inspections; interstate sales allowed; broader food list. Liberty County is home to Ft. Stewart military base and Hinesville. The state tier 'Okay' in input reflects pre-July 2025 law; current law is much more permissive. No Liberty County-specific restrictions found.

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/liberty-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Liberty County	Chatham County	Bryan County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific prohibition under new law; good manufacturing practice applies	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies	Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales allowed; wholesale, retail, online, restaurant sales all permitted since July 2025. Interstate sales also allowed...	Direct and indirect sales; farmers markets, events, retail, online permitted	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	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Since July 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows almost any non-PHF food. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Food handle...	Food handler certificate required; non-TCS foods; no state license required; labeling required; expanded product list effective July 2025	Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable foods; proper storage required	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions	Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence
POPULATION	65,550	296,266	44,995

State context — Georgia cottage food law

Liberty 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 Liberty County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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