

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Bay County

Michigan · Bay City · FIPS 26017 · Population 103,752 ·  
Crosodo Index #470\*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
MCL §289.4102	Great	50000	MEDIUM	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.

MICHIGAN: BAY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #470\* · FIPS 26017 · Bay City

# Bay County

Population 103,752 · State baseline: MCL \$289,4102 · **MEDIUM**

### QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Michigan allows non-potentially hazardous foods from home kitchens. Annual sales cap of \$50,000 (raised by 2025 HB 4122, effective March 2026). No registration, no inspection, no training required. Direct-to-consumer only. Online/mail order/third-party delivery permitted (2025 amendment). Face-to-face or virtual interaction required.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Bay City and other municipalities in Bay County may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Bay County cottage food ordinance identified.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (No routine inspections. Exempt from MDARD licensing.)

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** Yes — Michigan allows non-potentially hazardous foods from home kitchens. Annual sales cap of \$50,000 (raised by 2025 HB 4122, effective March 2026). No registration, no inspection, no training required. Direct-to-consumer only. Online/mail order/third-party delivery permitted (2025 amendment). Face-to-face or virtual interaction required.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN** No

**PET RESTRICTIONS** No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.

**WATER SUPPLY** No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation.

**HANDWASHING** Standard handwashing practices required.

**FOOD STORAGE** Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Acidified foods, low-acid canned foods, fruit butters, pickles, fermented foods, salsas, sauces, ketchup, mustards, meat jerkies, juices, carbonated drinks, kombucha, pet food prohibited. Only two specified buttercream frosting recipes permitted.

### Inspection & permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED** No — No routine inspections. Exempt from MDARD licensing.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT** Conditional — Bay City and other municipalities in Bay County may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Bay County cottage food ordinance identified.

**LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE** Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer only. Online, mail order, and third-party delivery permitted (2025 amendment). No wholesale or consignment.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

### Relevant county code

No specific Bay County code section identified. State law governs: MCL §289.4102.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Bay County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Bay County is in the Great Lakes Bay Region. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

---

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/food-dairy/cottage-foods>

<https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=MCL-289-4102>

**Questions?** Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/michigan/bay-county-discuss>

## State context — Michigan cottage food law

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

---

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
MCL §289.4102	50000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
No	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	Yes

### INDIRECT SALES

No — Sales through retail stores, restaurants, or wholesale are prohibited. Online sales, mail order, and third-party delivery platform sales (e.g., DoorDash) are allowed in-state only, but require the producer to offer the customer an opportunity to directly interact (face-to-face or virtually) before purchase. A separate \$75,000 cap applies if all products are priced at \$250 or more per item. Honey and maple syrup have a separate exemption permitting indirect retail sales up to \$15,000/year.

---

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

---

### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=MCL-289-4102>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/food-dairy/cottage-foods>

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

---

## Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/michigan/bay-county-discuss>

---