

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Sullivan County

Tennessee · Blountville · FIPS 47163 · Population 158,722 ·  
Crosodo Index #976\*

## STATE BASELINE

Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act)

## STATE TIER

Good

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

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## 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.

TENNESSEE: SULLIVAN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #976\* · FIPS 47163 · Blountville

# Sullivan County

Population 158,722 · State baseline: Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act) · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Tennessee Food Freedom Act (eff. July 1, 2022) broadly allows all non-TCS homemade foods from a private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements except DOH foodborne illness investigations. No sales cap. No registration required. Sales permitted anywhere in Tennessee (and possibly beyond).)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (Sullivan County may have home occupation zoning requirements. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. State law does not require any permit for cottage food.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (TDA may investigate for foodborne illness. No routine inspection.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Tennessee Food Freedom Act (eff. July 1, 2022) broadly allows all non-TCS homemade foods from a private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements except DOH foodborne illness investigations. No sales cap. No registration required. Sales permitted anywhere in Tennessee (and possibly beyond).
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific requirement under Tennessee Food Freedom Act.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	No specific state requirement; good manufacturing practices recommended.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-TCS foods only; proper storage practices recommended.

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — TDA may investigate for foodborne illness. No routine inspection.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — Sullivan County may have home occupation zoning requirements. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. State law does not require any permit for cottage food.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

## Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	Yes
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	Conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Sales allowed anywhere — direct, online, retail, wholesale, restaurant sales all permitted under the Food Freedom Act for non-TCS foods. No geographic restriction within Tennessee.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may apply.

### Relevant county code

Sullivan County Zoning Ordinance; Tenn. Code §53-1-125

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county. State baseline governs. Tennessee Food Freedom Act (2022) is one of the more permissive cottage food laws. No Sullivan County-specific cottage food code identified.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/businesses/food/food-manufacturing/domestic-kitchen.html>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/tennessee/2021/title-53/chapter-8/>

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

## State context — Tennessee cottage food law

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

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<b>STATUTE</b>	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b>
Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act)	—
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b>	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b>
No	No
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b>	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b>
No	No

### INDIRECT SALES

Yes — The Tennessee Food Freedom Act (Public Chapter 862, effective July 1, 2022) broadly exempts production and sale of non-TCS homemade food items from all licensing, permitting, inspecting, packaging, and labeling laws. Sales may be direct to consumer in person or remotely. Local government ordinances restricting homemade food sales are preempted. Note: Prior to the 2022 Food Freedom Act, the older domestic kitchen regulations (TDA Chapter 0080-4-11) required a permit, inspection, and food safety certification, and limited sales to 100 units/week; the Food Freedom Act supersedes these requirements for qualifying non-TCS homemade foods.

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

### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://law.justia.com/codes/tennessee/2021/title-53/chapter-8/>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/businesses/food/food-manufacturing/domestic-kitchen.html>

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

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## Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/tennessee/sullivan-county-discuss>

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