



Calling all food sector businesses

Donate excess food with the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act

Does your restaurant have excess food at the end of the day? Did your hotel over order fruit for the breakfast buffet? If you would like to donate food to organizations that serve people in need, you have liability protections under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act of 1996.

What is the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act?

The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act of 1996 was created to encourage food and grocery donations to nonprofit organizations for distribution to needy individuals. The Act protects food donors who donate in good faith apparently wholesome food or apparently fit grocery products to a nonprofit organization for ultimate distribution to needy individuals. The Act also provides protection against civil and criminal liability to the nonprofit organizations that receive such donated items in good faith.

Who is eligible to donate?

Organizations in the food sector are encouraged to donate with the protections of the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act. Eligible businesses include:

- restaurants
- cafeterias
- food service
- caterers
- hotels
- cruise ships
- food manufacturers
- food distributors
- food wholesalers
- grocery stores
- food banks
- school food authorities and institutions of higher education
- farmers and gleaners
- food trucks

Where can I donate?

The Act covers donations to nonprofit organizations for ultimate distribution to needy individuals. It does not cover direct donations to needy individuals or families. Find a **food bank or food pantry** near you.

How do I learn more?

Read the **full Frequently Asked Questions** for more details on who the Act covers, what can be donated, who can receive donations, and state and federal liability protections.

For further information visit:

www.usda.gov/foodlossandwaste