

House Engrossed

mobile food vendors; licensure

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

HOUSE BILL 2118

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 9-485.01 AND 36-1761, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING
TO MOBILE FOOD VENDORS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 9-485.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended
3 to read:

4 9-485.01. Mobile food vendors; mobile food units; operation

5 A. In relation to a mobile food vendor or mobile food unit, a city
6 or town by ordinance or resolution may:

7 1. Prohibit or restrict a mobile food vendor from operating at a
8 public airport or public transit facility, in an area zoned for
9 residential use or within two hundred fifty feet of an area zoned for
10 residential use.

11 2. Continue to enact and enforce regulations and zoning codes on
12 mobile food units or mobile food vendors that are not otherwise prohibited
13 by law.

14 B. In relation to a mobile food vendor or mobile food unit, a city
15 or town may not:

16 1. Require a mobile food vendor, property owner or lessee of a
17 property to apply for and receive any special permit that is not required
18 for other temporary or mobile vending businesses in the same zoning
19 district.

20 2. Require a mobile food vendor or mobile food unit to operate a
21 specific distance from the perimeter of an existing commercial
22 establishment or restaurant, except as required by applicable building,
23 fire, street and sidewalk codes.

24 3. Prohibit or restrict a mobile food vendor or mobile food unit
25 from using any legal parking space, including metered parking, except to
26 restrict the number of spaces, vehicle size and parking duration and the
27 ability to occupy sites with insufficient parking capacity as prescribed
28 by a local zoning ordinance of the city or town or as otherwise prohibited
29 by federal law.

30 4. Require a mobile food unit to be inspected by a city or town
31 fire department before operation if the mobile food vendor provides
32 evidence that the mobile food unit passed a fire inspection by another
33 city or town fire department in this state within the preceding twelve
34 months.

35 5. REQUIRE A MOBILE FOOD VENDOR TO OBTAIN A LOCAL REGULATORY PERMIT
36 OR LICENSE.

37 C. A city or town with a population of more than fifty thousand
38 persons shall make available all applicable license applications in an
39 electronic format that is available online and may not require a mobile
40 food vendor to apply in person.

41 Sec. 2. Section 36-1761, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
42 read:

43 36-1761. Mobile food vendors; mobile food units; rules;
44 health and safety licensing standards

45 A. The director shall adopt rules that do all of the following:

- 1 1. Establish health and safety licensing standards for mobile food
2 vendors and mobile food units that apply on a statewide basis. The
3 licensing standards shall:
- 4 (a) Include three categories of mobile food units that are based on
5 the type of food dispensed and the amount of handling and preparation
6 required.
- 7 (b) Include general physical and operation requirements of a mobile
8 food unit, including:
- 9 (i) Installation of compressors, generators and similar mechanical
10 units that are not an integral part of the food preparation or storage
11 equipment.
- 12 (ii) Necessary commissary or other servicing area agreements.
- 13 (iii) Vehicle and equipment cleaning requirements.
- 14 (iv) Waste disposal requirements during and after operation on
15 public or private property, which may not include the size or dimensions
16 of any required solid waste receptacle.
- 17 2. Establish statewide inspection standards that are based on
18 objective factors for use by the county health departments.
- 19 3. Establish a licensing process for mobile food units that does
20 all of the following:
- 21 (a) Requires a separate license for each mobile food unit.
- 22 (b) Requires a license to be renewed annually.
- 23 (c) Delegates to the county health department in the county where
24 the mobile food vendor's commissary is located the licensing and health
25 and safety inspection for state licensure using the statewide inspection
26 standards adopted pursuant to this section. The licensing process shall
27 require random inspections by county health departments at no additional
28 cost except as provided in section 11-269.24. A mobile food unit license
29 issued by a county health department pursuant to this section shall have
30 reciprocity in each county of this state. A county health department may
31 enforce the statewide inspection standards regardless of where the license
32 was issued.
- 33 (d) Requires all employees of a mobile food vendor to have a valid
34 food handler card or a certificate from an accredited food handler
35 training class as specified in rule by the department.
- 36 (e) Requires that the license be displayed in the mobile food
37 vendor's operating location in a conspicuous location for public view.
- 38 B. The rules adopted pursuant to this section may not do either of
39 the following:
- 40 1. Require a mobile food vendor or mobile food unit to operate a
41 specific distance from the perimeter of an existing commercial
42 establishment or restaurant.
- 43 2. Address the operating hours of a mobile food unit.

1 C. Except as otherwise specified in this chapter, the director may
2 adopt rules that are substantively the same as the regulations that are in
3 place on August 3, 2018 in Maricopa county regarding mobile food
4 establishments.

5 ~~D. This section does not preclude a city, town or county from~~
6 ~~requiring a mobile food vendor to be licensed if the licensing system~~
7 ~~includes a background check or identification and fingerprinting of the~~
8 ~~owner of the mobile food vending operation.~~