

Senate Bill 96

By: Senators Henson of the 41st, Thompson of the 5th and Fort of the 39th

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 26 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 standards, labeling, and adulteration of food, so as to regulate the preparation, marketing,
3 sale, and serving of Halal foods; to provide punishment for violations; to define certain
4 terms; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 2 of Title 26 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to standards,
8 labeling, and adulteration of food, is amended by inserting a new Article 11A to read as
9 follows:

10 "ARTICLE 11A

11 26-2-340.

12 As used in this article, the term:

13 (1) 'Food' means any meat, meat preparation, articles of food, or food products, either
14 raw or prepared for human consumption, and whether to be consumed on the premises
15 where prepared or sold or whether to be taken elsewhere for consumption.

16 (2) 'Halal food' means food or drink which is permitted for Muslims under Islamic
17 religious or dietary laws, including those laws and customs of zabiha (slaughtered
18 according to Islamic code).

19 (3) 'Label' means a display of written, printed, or graphic matter on a food product or
20 container or packaging of a food product.

21 (4) 'Meat' includes without limitation chicken.

22 (4) 'Person' means any hotel, inn, grocery, butcher shop, restaurant keeper, or any
23 individual, firm, or corporation operating a boarding house, eating house, lunchroom
24 business, or catering business.

25 26-2-341.

1 (a) No person, with intent to defraud, shall sell, prepare, or expose for sale food which
2 such person falsely represents to be Halal food.

3 (b) No person shall falsely represent any food or the contents of any package or container
4 to be Halal by having or permitting to be inscribed on it, in any language, the word 'Halal.'

5 (c) Nothing contained in this Code section shall prohibit the use of the words 'Halal type'
6 or 'Halal style food' in advertising.

7

8 26-2-342.

9 No person, with intent to defraud, shall display any signs around his or her place of
10 business or place any advertisements in any newspaper, magazine, periodical, or other
11 publication, which signs or advertisements falsely represent non-Halal food sold, prepared,
12 or offered for sale to be Halal food.

13 26-2-343.

14 No person preparing or serving food shall prepare, sell, serve, or prepare for sale, either to
15 be consumed on the premises or elsewhere, Halal and non-Halal food in the same place of
16 business, unless such person:

17 (1) Keeps separate kitchens where the food is prepared;

18 (2) Keeps and uses separate and distinctly labeled or marked dishes and utensils in and
19 with which the food is prepared and served;

20 (3) Indicates on all signs and similar display advertising in, on, or about such person's
21 premises, in block letters at least four inches in height, 'Halal and non-Halal food
22 prepared or served here'; and

23 (4) Stores, displays, and packs Halal food separately from non-Halal food.

24 26-2-344.

25 Possession of non-Halal food in any place of business advertising that the only food sold
26 or offered for sale therein is Halal food shall be prima-facie evidence of intent to defraud
27 under Code Section 26-2-341 or 26-2-342.

28 26-2-345.

29 Any person who violates any provision of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and,
30 upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$25.00 nor more than
31 \$500.00, or by imprisonment for not less than 30 days nor more than six months, or both."

32

SECTION 2.

33 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.