

Senate Bill 69

By: Senators Wilkinson of the 50th, Anderson of the 24th, Black of the 8th, Gooch of the 51st and Kirk of the 13th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 2-21-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 packaging and labeling and registration of organic products and certifying entities, so as to  
3 eliminate a registration requirement; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;  
4 and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 2-21-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to packaging and  
8 labeling and registration of organic products and certifying entities, is amended by revising  
9 subsection (e) as follows:

10 ~~"(e) On and after January 1, 2003, no person shall produce, process, distribute, or handle~~  
11 ~~in this state any advertised, promoted, identified, tagged, stamped, packaged, or labeled~~  
12 ~~organic food or feed ingredient, article, commodity, or product unless such person has first~~  
13 ~~registered with the department; provided, however, that retail food sales establishments~~  
14 ~~licensed under Article 2 of this chapter that do not process or repackage certified organic~~  
15 ~~commodities shall be exempt from registration provisions set forth in this chapter. On and~~  
16 ~~after January 1, 2003, no organization, business, firm, or individual shall act as a certifying~~  
17 ~~entity in this state unless such organization, business, firm, or individual has first registered~~  
18 ~~with the department. The Commissioner shall establish by regulation registration standards~~  
19 ~~for producers, processors, distributors, handlers, and certifying entities not inconsistent~~  
20 ~~with this chapter. Registration shall be made upon forms prescribed and furnished by the~~  
21 ~~department. Registrations shall expire on the last day of December of the year for which~~  
22 ~~they are issued. The Commissioner shall establish by rule a registration fee for certifying~~  
23 ~~entities in an amount of not less than \$75.00 nor more than \$1,000.00 per annum and may~~  
24 ~~establish classes of certifying entities with different registration fees for each class. Any~~  
25 ~~fees collected pursuant to this Code section shall be retained pursuant to the provisions of~~  
26 ~~Code Section 45-12-92.1."~~

27

**SECTION 2.**

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