

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

AS PASSED SENATE

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28 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.