

HB 2382 -- Food Storage and Transportation Safety

Sponsor: Bivins

This bill specifies that any poisonous or deleterious substance added to any food including by exposure to pathogens or contaminants conveyed or introduced by shipping and storage on pallets is prohibited and will be deemed an unsafe practice. Upon confirmation of any food's exposure or contamination, the pallet provider may be prohibited by injunction from selling, renting, or using the pallet until the exposure and contamination has been resolved. The Department of Health and Senior Services must establish rules for the protection of human health and safety in regard to this type of contamination.

Any pallet used for the transportation, distribution, or storage of food products for human consumption must be treated to effectively eliminate pathogens and tested for the presence of potential contaminants absorbed or introduced into or onto the pallet. The sale, rental, distribution, or supply of pallets containing formaldehyde, including formaldehyde found in pallets made with composite wood products, to any person in Missouri for use with food or food grade goods is prohibited. Any waste material from contaminated pallets must be disposed of in accordance with Missouri's solid and hazardous waste laws. Pallet and pallet waste material must be recycled to the maximum extent possible that they do not create a human health hazard by recycling.

Beginning January 1, 2011, the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the departments of Conservation and Natural Resources, must provide a report to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tem of the Senate evaluating methods of preventing the importation of invasive pests in or on wood pallets. The report must include any methods, costs, and benefits of commercially available treatments which may prevent a threat to the health, environment, and economy of the state. After the report's submission, anyone who knowingly provides pest-infested pallets into Missouri commerce with reckless disregard for the potential to infest Missouri lands, forests, or crops may be held liable for the damages caused by the pest.

Beginning January 1, 2011, any pallet used for storing, transporting, or distributing food for human consumption must be listed under certain national standards in effect as of December 31, 2009.