

## BILL EMERSON GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD DONATION ACT

In 1996, Congress passed the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act. The act encourages food donation by limiting liability of businesses and nonprofits which donate and distribute food to those in need. The legislation allows that any person or business that donates, or any non-profit that receives food and groceries, “shall not be subject to civil or criminal liability arising from the nature, age, packaging, or condition of apparently wholesome food or an apparently fit grocery product that the person or gleaner donates [or non-profit receives] in good faith... for ultimate distribution to needy individuals.”

According to the Legal Guide to the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, by the University of Arkansas School of Law, “...a thorough search of filings and reported decisions did not turn up a single case that involved food donation-related liability or any attempts to get around the protections offered by the Bill Emerson Act. Additionally, several leading food recovery experts and anti-hunger advocates report that they are unaware of any such actual or threatened lawsuits.” This is great news for restaurants, grocery stores, caterers, farmers markets and other food purveyors who worry about the legality of donating leftover or unsold food! [Click here](#) for more information on The Good Samaritan Act and how it encourages and protects food donation or to learn how you and your business can donate excess food.