

Colorado GMO Labeling Act  
(Statutory Amendment)

*Text of Measure:*

*Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:*

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 25-5-401.5 as follows:

**25-5-401.5. Declaration.** (1) The electorate of Colorado hereby finds, determines, and declares that:

- (a) LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE CONSUMERS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE AN INFORMED CHOICE OF THE PRODUCTS THEY CONSUME AND TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE;
- (b) PERSONS WITH CERTAIN RELIGIOUS, CULTURAL, AND MORAL BELIEFS OBJECT TO CONSUMING GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD BECAUSE OF OBJECTIONS TO TAMPERING WITH THE GENETIC MAKEUP OF LIFE FORMS AND THE RAPID INTRODUCTION AND PROLIFERATION OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED ORGANISMS;
- (c) UNITED STATES FEDERAL LAW DOES NOT ADEQUATELY PROVIDE FOR THE REGULATION OF THE SAFETY AND LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD;
- (d) THE LONG-TERM HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF GROWING AND CONSUMING GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS ARE NOT WELL RESEARCHED AND NOT UNDERSTOOD BY SCIENCE;
- (e) INDIVIDUALS OR COMPANIES ENGAGED IN SELLING OR OTHERWISE DISTRIBUTING FOOD PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN GENETICALLY ENGINEERED INGREDIENTS HAVE AN OBLIGATION FOR TRANSPARENCY REGARDING THE GENETICALLY MODIFIED INGREDIENTS PRESENT IN THESE PRODUCTS.

**SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-5-402, **add** (8.5), (9.5), (12.5), (15.5), (16.5), (20.3), (20.5), and (21.5) as follows:

**25-5-402. Definitions.** As used in this part 4, unless the context otherwise requires:

(8.5) “DISTRIBUTOR” MEANS A PERSON OR BUSINESS ENGAGED IN ANY METHOD OF DISTRIBUTING OR TRANSPORTING A FOOD PRODUCT FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER.

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(9.5) “ENZYME” MEANS A PROTEIN THAT CATALYZES CHEMICAL REACTIONS OF OTHER SUBSTANCES WITHOUT BEING DESTROYED OR ALTERED UPON COMPLETION OF SUCH REACTIONS.

(12.5)(a) “GENETICALLY ENGINEERED” OR “GENETICALLY MODIFIED” MEANS FOOD PRODUCED FROM OR WITH AN ORGANISM OR ORGANISMS WITH ITS GENETICS ALTERED THROUGH APPLICATION OF:

(I) IN VITRO AND IN VIVO NUCLEIC ACID TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING RECOMBINANT DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID (DNA) TECHNIQUES AND THE DIRECT INJECTION OF NUCLEIC ACID INTO CELLS OR ORGANELLES; OR

(II) METHODS OF FUSING CELLS BEYOND THE TAXONOMIC FAMILY THAT OVERCOME NATURAL PHYSIOLOGICAL REPRODUCTIVE OR RECOMBINANT BARRIERS, AND THAT ARE NOT TECHNIQUES USED IN TRADITIONAL BREEDING AND SELECTION SUCH AS CONJUGATION, TRANSDUCTION, AND HYBRIDIZATION.

(b) A FOOD SHALL OTHERWISE BE CONSIDERED TO BE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED IF:

(I) THE ORGANISM FROM WHICH THE FOOD IS DERIVED HAS BEEN TREATED WITH A GENETICALLY ENGINEERED MATERIAL; EXCEPT THAT THE USE OF MANURE AS A FERTILIZER FOR RAW AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO MEAN THAT SUCH COMMODITIES ARE PRODUCED WITH A GENETICALLY ENGINEERED MATERIAL; OR

(II) THE FOOD CONTAINS AN INGREDIENT, COMPONENT, OR OTHER ARTICLE THAT IS GENETICALLY ENGINEERED.

(15.5) “MANUFACTURER” MEANS A PERSON OR BUSINESS ENGAGED IN THE PRODUCTION OR PROCESSING OF SEED, SEED STOCK, FOOD, OR ANY FOOD PRODUCT.

(16.5) “ORGANISM” MEANS ANY BIOLOGICAL ENTITY CAPABLE OF REPLICATION, REPRODUCTION, OR TRANSFERRING GENETIC MATERIAL.

(20.3) “PROCESSED FOOD” MEANS ANY FOOD OTHER THAN A RAW AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY AND INCLUDES ANY FOOD PRODUCED FROM A RAW AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY THAT HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO PROCESSING SUCH AS CANNING, SMOKING, PRESSING, COOKING, FREEZING, DEHYDRATION, FERMENTATION, OR MILLING.

(20.5) “PROCESSING AID” MEANS:

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(a) A SUBSTANCE THAT IS ADDED TO A FOOD DURING THE PROCESSING OF THE FOOD BUT IS REMOVED IN SOME MANNER FROM THE FOOD BEFORE IT IS PACKAGED IN ITS FINAL FORM; OR

(b) A SUBSTANCE THAT IS ADDED TO A FOOD DURING PROCESSING, IS CONVERTED INTO CONSTITUENTS NORMALLY PRESENT IN THE FOOD, AND DOES NOT SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF THE CONSTITUENTS FOUND IN THE FOOD; OR

(c) A SUBSTANCE THAT IS ADDED TO A FOOD FOR ITS TECHNICAL OR FUNCTIONAL EFFECTS IN THE PROCESSING BUT IS PRESENT IN THE FINISHED FOOD AT INSIGNIFICANT LEVELS AND DOES NOT HAVE ANY TECHNICAL OR FUNCTIONAL EFFECT IN THAT FINISHED FOOD.

(21.5) “RETAILER” MEANS A PERSON OR BUSINESS ENGAGED IN SELLING THE FOOD FROM INDIVIDUALS OR BUSINESSES TO THE END-USER.

**SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-5-411, **add** (1)(q), (3), (4) and (5) as follows:

**25-5-411. Definitions of “misbranding”.** (1) A food shall be deemed to be misbranded if:

(q) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020, ANY FOOD THAT HAS BEEN GENETICALLY MODIFIED OR HAS BEEN PRODUCED WITH GENETIC ENGINEERING, UNLESS THE WORDS “CONTAINS GENETICALLY MODIFIED INGREDIENTS” OCCUPY A MINIMUM OF TWELVE AND ONE-HALF PERCENT OF THE SURFACE AREA OF THE FRONT SIDE OF ALL PRINTED PRODUCT LABELS USED IN PACKAGING, HOLDING, AND TRANSPORT BY THE MANUFACTURER, AND MUST BE MAINTAINED BY THE DISTRIBUTOR, AND MUST BE MAINTAINED BY THE RETAILER. THIS PARAGRAPH (q) OF SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO:

(I) FOOD OR DRINK FOR ANIMALS;

(II) CHEWING GUM;

(III) ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES;

(IV) ANY PROCESSED FOOD THAT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (q) SOLELY BECAUSE ONE OR MORE PROCESSING AIDS OR ENZYMES WERE PRODUCED OR DERIVED WITH GENETIC ENGINEERING;

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(V) ANY FOOD THAT IS NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE AND THAT EITHER:

(A) IS A PROCESSED FOOD PREPARED AND INTENDED FOR IMMEDIATE HUMAN CONSUMPTION; OR

(B) IS SERVED, SOLD, OR OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN ANY RESTAURANT OR OTHER FOOD ESTABLISHMENT THAT IS PRIMARILY ENGAGED IN THE SALE OF FOOD PREPARED AND INTENDED FOR IMMEDIATE HUMAN CONSUMPTION;

(VI) FOOD CONSISTING ENTIRELY OF OR DERIVED ENTIRELY FROM, AN ANIMAL THAT HAS NOT ITSELF BEEN GENETICALLY ENGINEERED, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE ANIMAL HAS BEEN FED OR INJECTED WITH ANY FOOD PRODUCED WITH GENETIC ENGINEERING OR ANY DRUG THAT HAS BEEN PRODUCED THROUGH MEANS OF GENETIC ENGINEERING; OR

(VII) MEDICALLY PRESCRIBED FOOD.

(3) FOOD WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED MISBRANDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (q) OF SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION IF IT IS PRODUCED BY A PERSON WHO:

(a) GROWS, RAISES, OR OTHERWISE PRODUCES SUCH FOOD WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE THAT THE FOOD WAS CREATED WITH SEED OR OTHER FOOD THAT WAS DERIVED IN ANY WAY THROUGH A PROCESS OF GENETIC ENGINEERING; AND

(b) OBTAINS A SWORN STATEMENT FROM THE PARTY THAT SOLD THE SEED OR FOOD TO THE PERSON, THAT SUCH SUBSTANCE HAS NOT BEEN KNOWINGLY ENGINEERED, AND WAS ENTIRELY SEGREGATED FROM A FOOD OR FOOD COMPONENT THAT MAY HAVE BEEN CREATED THROUGH A PROCESS OF GENETIC ENGINEERING. THE SWORN STATEMENT MUST BE OBTAINED AT THE TIME THE SEED OR FOOD IS DELIVERED FROM THE SELLER.

(4) THERE IS NO PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION AGAINST A DISTRIBUTOR, MANUFACTURER, OR RETAILER THAT SELLS OR ADVERTISES FOOD FOR FAILURE TO CONFORM TO THE LABELING REQUIREMENTS UNDER PARAGRAPH (q) OF SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION.

(5) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROMULGATE REGULATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 25-5-420 CONCERNING THE PROCEDURES FOR PROMULGATING SUCH REGULATIONS, TO CARRY OUT THE LABELING REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPH (q) OF SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION. SUCH REGULATIONS MAY PRESCRIBE THE PROCEDURES FOR INSPECTIONS AND TESTING OF PRODUCTS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (q) OF SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION.

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