HCS SS SB 525 -- FOOD SAFETY

This bill allows a nonprofit organization to prepare food in a private home or other area for distribution to the end consumer at a charitable fundraising event.

The nonprofit organization may inform the consumer by placing a clearly visible placard at the serving location that the food was prepared in a kitchen that is not subject to regulation and inspection by the regulatory authority.

The nonprofit organization may notify the regulatory authority in writing or via electronic mail prior to the beginning of the event. If made, the notification must include the name of the nonprofit organization; date, time, and location of the event; and the name and contact information of the person responsible for the event.

The bill does not apply to a food establishment that is regulated by the Department of Health and Senior Services that provides food for the event.

These provisions must not apply to the counties of Boone, Clay, Jackson, Jefferson, St. Charles, and St. Louis and to Kansas City and the City of St. Louis.

The bill specifies that a cottage food production operation, which is defined as an individual operation out of the individual's home producing a baked good, a canned jam or jelly, or a dried herb or herb mix for sale at the individual's home; having an annual gross income of $50,000 or less from the sale of the food; and selling the food only directly to consumers. A cottage food production operation is not a food service establishment and cannot be subject to any other state or local food code laws or regulations. The department is required to establish rules requiring a cottage food production operation to label all foods intended for sale with the name and address of the operation and a statement that the food is not inspected by the department or a local health department. An operation cannot sell cottage foods through the Internet.

These provisions cannot be construed to prohibit the authority of the department or a local health department to conduct an investigation of a foodborne disease or outbreak.