



MASSACHUSETTS FOOD ASSOCIATION

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## **PORK UPDATE IN MASSACHUSETTS FOR MFA MEMBERS**

AUGUST 21, 2023

BELOW IS AN UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PORK LAW AND REGULATIONS WHICH GO INTO EFFECT AUGUST 24.

[Regulations](#) on the sale of pork products in Massachusetts will become effective August 24 under a legal agreement between state officials (defendants) and industry groups (plaintiffs). The [joint motion](#) was filed Friday, August 4 by Attorney General Andrea Campbell's office and plaintiffs in a case that challenged the Massachusetts law. On Monday, August 7, federal judge Margaret Guzman approved the compromise that allows the [MA Attorney General's office](#) and the [Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources](#) (MDAR) to begin enforcing all pork-related sections of the livestock treatment law starting August 24. Pork meat and products will no longer be permitted for sale in MA if they are derived from any pig that is not housed in a sufficient amount of space, even if the animal was raised and slaughtered in another state. The prohibition does not extend to "combination food products" that use pork as an ingredient such as hot dogs or most sausages. Almost all of the pork sold in Massachusetts comes from other states. According to statistics cited in a lawsuit challenging the Bay State's pig welfare law, Massachusetts residents consumed about 356 million pounds of retail pork in 2022, only about 1.9 million pounds of which was produced within its borders.

As part of this agreement, officials will not enforce (for at least six months) new restrictions on pork meat not produced or sold in the state that passes through Massachusetts, or is "transshipped", on its way to a final sale destination in another state. This gives MDAR time to review