



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 3157		DATE: 3/10/2026	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. A.C. "HONEST ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1535			
CITY: O'FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: CAMELLIA PETERSON		PHONE NUMBER: 417-726-9475
REPRESENTING: AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
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EMAIL: cpeterson@afphq.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 8:54 PM

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On behalf of the thousands of Missourians represented by Americans for Prosperity, I respectfully urge you to support HB 3157, which creates a streamlined statewide licensing system for mobile food vendors.

Currently, mobile food entrepreneurs often face a patchwork of local permits, fees, and regulations that make it difficult to operate across city or county lines. HB 3157 addresses this unnecessary regulatory burden by establishing a single statewide license issued by the Department of Health and Senior Services, allowing vendors to operate anywhere in Missouri while still complying with state health and safety standards.

By preempting duplicative local licensing requirements, this legislation removes barriers to entry, promotes small business growth, and allows food truck operators and other mobile vendors to spend less time navigating red tape and more time serving their customers.

Missouri should be a place where entrepreneurs can start and grow businesses without unnecessary regulatory obstacles. HB 3157 advances that goal by creating a clear, consistent regulatory framework that protects public health while supporting economic opportunity.

For these reasons, Americans for Prosperity strongly encourages the committee to support HB 3157.

Camellia Peterson
Legislative Director
Americans for Prosperity - Missouri



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: GREGORY PRINCETON THIERRY JR		PHONE NUMBER: 816-605-2411	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ON THE HOOK FISH AND CHIPS		TITLE: DISTRICT MANAGER FOR ON THE HOOK FISH AND CHIPS	
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CITY: LEE SUMMIT		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64081
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Supporter of HB 3157



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: NORMA HARRIS		PHONE NUMBER: 314-920-1060	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SNS HOSPITALITY LLC DBA SNSGOODIES		TITLE: OWNER	
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CITY: O FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL: Norma.boozer@snsgoodies.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 12:29 AM	

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I own and operate SNSGOODIES Food Truck and I very much support this based on the excessive amount we pay per license and permits



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SAMUEL HOOPER		PHONE NUMBER: 202-956-8390	
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Re: Institute for Justice testimony in support of HB 3157

Chair Gallick, Vice Chair Thompson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Samuel Hooper. I am Legislative Counsel at the Institute for Justice (IJ), a nonprofit law firm that works to protect civil liberties, including economic liberty. I respectfully submit this testimony in support of House Bill 3157. This bill represents a golden opportunity to strengthen economic liberty and cut through the regulatory patchwork that currently hinders the ability of food truck entrepreneurs to earn a living across Missouri.

At the heart of this bill is a simple but powerful reform: the creation of a single, statewide mobile food vendor permit. This reform is long overdue. Across Missouri, mobile food vendors must navigate a tangled web of inconsistent local rules that make it unnecessarily difficult and expensive to operate across multiple jurisdictions. A food truck that complies with every health and safety requirement in Houston may still be banned or delayed from operating a mile down the road in Bellaire, purely because of overlapping or conflicting local permits and fees.

The status quo, with its multiple permit requirements, is inefficient and unjust. These burdens fall most heavily on new and lower-income entrepreneurs, who may lack the regulatory expertise or financial flexibility to decipher and comply with constantly shifting municipal codes. For them, the dream of running a food truck business can quickly become a regulatory nightmare.

IJ's 2021 report, Food Truck Truth, documents these challenges in depth. The report highlights how cities across America impose duplicative, uncoordinated requirements that serve little purpose other than to discourage mobile vendors from crossing municipal boundaries. For example, vendors may need to obtain multiple food safety permits for the same truck, even though nothing about the truck or its menu changes when it crosses a city boundary. And vendors are often subjected to redundant fire and health inspections, costing them time and money, even if their vehicle was recently inspected and passed in a neighboring jurisdiction.

These and other anticompetitive burdens disproportionately impact mobile vendors, who often operate on thin margins and rely on flexibility (like the ability to quickly seize opportunities to cater events in neighboring jurisdictions) to succeed. The IJ report found that "[m]obile vendors are among the most heavily regulated food businesses in the state—not because they are unsafe, but because they are

politically vulnerable.”

By enacting a single statewide permit, HB 3157 directly addresses this problem. It ensures that food trucks operating in compliance with state health and safety requirements are not subjected to an endless gauntlet of inconsistent and duplicative local rules. It also ensures that inspections and licensing remain focused on legitimate safety concerns rather than protectionism disguised as regulation.

Importantly, the bill does not eliminate local authority over legitimate matters. Cities will still be empowered to address local issues such as noise, trash, and the use of public parks. What they will no longer be able to do is use local permitting power to block safe, lawful businesses from operating, simply because they fear competition.

The statewide permitting of mobile food vendors is not a radical idea. Indeed, similar legislation has been adopted in Tennessee, Oklahoma, and most recently in Texas. HB 3157 strikes the correct balance between maintaining public health protections while removing unjustified regulatory barriers to opportunity.

At the Institute for Justice, we have spent more than three decades defending the right to earn an honest living. We have represented food truck owners in cities across the country who have been shut out of markets by arbitrary local rules. The problems this bill addresses are not theoretical. They are real, with serious consequences for hardworking entrepreneurs. I encourage the Committee to support this legislation and make Missouri a place where small businesses on wheels can thrive, compete, and feed our communities.

Sincerely,

Samuel Hooper
Legislative Counsel
Institute for Justice
Telephone: (512) 569-6343
shooper@ij.org



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ALAN DREVES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 9:21 AM

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I am an Environmental Public Health Specialist for more than 21 years for 2 county health departments. I am against this for multiple reasons. Local control works best especially as it applies to this proposal. I inspect vendors when they are actively serving food. I want to observe their food safety habits as they are preparing and serving food. A state wide license is not really manageable. If a vendor operates without a license or has a license removed when are the consequences? Do they go on operating unregulated? Fined? There will be bad actors that will avoid regulating by operating without inspections during food service. The state seems to be challenged currently with staff work loads let alone an increased work load. Will funding for additional state staff be authorized? Competitive pay?



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DR. MARVIA JONES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 8:00 AM
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Testimony for the Record
 Submitted to the
 House Committee on Economic Development
 for the Hearing of
 HB 3157
 March 10, 2026, House Hearing Room 1
 Dr. Marvia Jones
 Director of Health, Kansas City, Missouri

Chairwoman Gallick, Vice Chairman Thompson, Ranking Minority Member Michael Johnson, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today and for your consideration of the public health impacts of decisions made in your committee.

My name is Dr. Marvia Jones, I am the Director of Health for the City of Kansas City. I have dedicated my career to public health, working in areas such as health education, access to social services, and infectious disease mitigation. On the behalf of the City of Kansas City, I appreciate this opportunity to address the impact that House Bill 3157 will have on the health of our residents.

Among the most foundational and impactful charter responsibilities of a local health department is to conduct environmental inspections, ensuring the places we eat, sleep, and care for our children are safe. The Kansas City Health Department is proud of the robust standards we have upheld for decades through the frequent inspections of restaurants, hotels, childcare facilities, and mobile food vendors. House Bill 3157 aims to remove the city’s management of permitting mobile food vendors and transfer this duty to the State Health Department. This shift in environmental health enforcement will immediately lead to inefficiencies in our process, cumulating an increase in risk of cross-contamination and food-borne illness among the residents and visitors to our city.

The Kansas City Health Department has been recognized for exceptionally high standards in environmental inspections, which has led to our successes in avoiding food borne illness and maintaining a healthy, engaged business environment. Strong local regulations have been proven to be more effective in terms of compliance, business efficiency, and overall better health outcomes than centralizing regulations at the State level. Shifting mobile food unit inspections from our local agency to the state would dismantle the robust health standards that have been long accepted by our business community and impede our local health officials from taking quick action.

Currently, mobile food units in Kansas City are required to complete a health inspection once yearly, and our inspectors are trained to lead with education first. They teach business owners how to follow our food code and assign re-inspections or penalties when needed. In extreme cases, however, quick action is required. Our food inspectors have reported confronting dangerous violations, including food trucks operating without any access to running water, indicating that they are not washing their hands, utensils, or workspaces. In these cases, immediate orders to close are issued. If HB 3157 is passed, these cases will merely begin a lengthy process where our local inspectors submit recommendations for orders to the state, then await state decisions before acting. It is beyond any doubt that during this time, people will become sick. The CDC estimates that each year 48 million people get sick from a foodborne illness, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die. A lengthy recommendation cycle to address incompliance with health standards makes enforcement extremely difficult, and the cost of this inefficiency is dire.

Apart from the expected difficulties in enforcement when permits are managed at a state level, we remain concerned as to the stringency of this bill. Of particular note is the exclusion of a commissary agreement requirement. In Kansas City and most municipalities, mobile food vendors are required to have an active commissary agreement with a licensed commercial kitchen authorizing the vendor to use the facility for food preparation, storage, dishwashing, and waste disposal. Without such access to a licensed, inspected facility, food may be kept in unsuitable storage conditions, such as home refrigerators. Our inspectors will be unable to confirm that food sold from mobile units is stored, cleaned, prepared, and disposed of in a safe manner. This bill omits the requirement and bans local health agencies from enforcing such a rule (sec. 196.3112 line 11). Other standards will also be banned from adoption, including what we may consider a properly equipped unit (and we have seen creative builds!) and restrictions on where they can operate. Kansas City currently requires food trucks to park a mere 50 feet away from a brick-and-mortar restaurant offering similar foods. Overturning this ordinance will disrupt our thriving business environment and add undue stress to small business owners.

In fact, one of the major detriments of this bill will be the discouragement to the business community as a whole. Besides over-crowding from non-Kansas City vendors entering the city for our large events, and besides overturning zoning restrictions requiring a 50-foot space between trucks and similar local restaurants, the unfair standards will sow discontent. As previously discussed, we remain proud of the robust system we have enforced and gained business support for in our city in terms of health standards and inspection frequency. While our restaurants and hotels continue to abide by this system, they will sense an unfair advantage given to the mobile units which will have significantly less strict compliance standards and likely delayed, limited, or even no enforcement or penalties upon noncompliance.

HB 3157 will be a detriment to our business community and will directly increase the risk of food borne illnesses, resulting in hospitalization and death. Our local health department must remain empowered to manage the highly technical task of environmental health inspections, then enforce standards and penalties where needed. In a time when our city is experiencing growth and preparing for a large influx of visitors, we must remain alert as to the environmental safety of our practices and ensure the food we serve those living in and visiting our town meets the highest standards.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to the health and safety of Missouri's residents.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marvia Jones, PhD, MPH

Director of Health, City of Kansas City, MO



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WITNESS NAME		
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WITNESS NAME: RICHARD SHEETS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-9134
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Preempting local licensing regulatory requirements would nullify local land use plans and special public health matters unique to a local community. It is questionable whether the state health department has the staffing to preform inspections statewide.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
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HB 3157 does more than create a statewide licensing system for mobile food vendors. It broadly preempts local licensing and permitting authority while sharply limiting both local and departmental discretion over operational standards.

Although statewide uniformity may be a legitimate policy objective, the bill creates an expansive preemption framework likely to generate disputes over what local laws remain enforceable and what requirements are deemed “inconsistent” with state law.

The bill also includes a vague disciplinary catch-all authorizing denial, suspension, or revocation based on “other material facts or conditions” providing “reasonable justification” as determined by the department. That standard lacks meaningful statutory boundaries and raises due process concerns.

If the General Assembly intends to centralize mobile food vendor regulation at the state level, it should do so with clearer limits on disciplinary discretion and clearer guidance regarding the scope of local authority that remains intact.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SHANNON COOPER		PHONE NUMBER: 660-890-1432	
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ADDRESS: 208 MADISON			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: WILL MARRS		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: SPRINGFIELD/GREENE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT		TITLE:
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		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: govservicesjcmo@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 8:55 AM

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We are concerned about the work load for the state and the inability for them to react and regulate bad actors.