

File No. 260545

Committee Item No. 5

Board Item No. 42

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Committee: Public Safety and Ngbh Services

Date: July 9, 2026

Board of Supervisors Meeting:

Date: July 21, 2026

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Prepared by: Monique Crayton

Date: July 17, 2026

Prepared by: Monique Crayton

Date: July 2, 2026

Prepared by: _____

Date: _____

[Health Code - Code Cleanup]

Ordinance amending the Health Code to repeal the prohibition on transporting bread in open baskets or containers on City streets, the prohibition on selling unsterilized rags and other types of cloth to be used for cleaning in industrial places of employment and related regulations, and the prohibition on operating a laundry for sterilizing such rags without a permit.

NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.
Additions to Codes are in single-underline italics Times New Roman font.
Deletions to Codes are in ~~strikethrough italics Times New Roman font~~.
Board amendment additions are in double-underlined Arial font.
Board amendment deletions are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.
Asterisks (* * * *) indicate the omission of unchanged Code subsections or parts of tables.

Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

Section 1. Article 8 of the Health Code is hereby amended by deleting Section 407, to read as follows:

~~SEC. 407. CONVEYANCE OF BREAD, ETC., THROUGH PUBLIC STREETS.~~

~~—It shall be unlawful for any person, company or corporation to carry, transport or convey, or to cause to be carried, transported or conveyed through the public streets in open baskets or exposed containers, or vehicles or otherwise, any bread, cakes or pastry intended for human consumption.~~

Section 2. Article 12 of the Health Code is hereby amended by deleting Sections 694 and 695, to read as follows:

1 SEC. 694. WIPING RAGS.

2 ~~—(a) Materials and Cleaning Thereof. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation~~
3 ~~to sell or offer for sale, soiled clothes or rags, or soiled or disused or cast-off underclothing, garments,~~
4 ~~bedding, bedclothes or parts thereof for use as wiping rags unless the same have been cleansed and~~
5 ~~sterilized by a process of boiling continuously for a period of 40 minutes in a solution containing at~~
6 ~~least five percent of caustic soda.~~

7 ~~—It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation employing mechanics, workmen or~~
8 ~~laborers to furnish or supply such employees for use as wiping rags, soiled clothes or rags, or soiled or~~
9 ~~disused or cast-off underclothing, garments, bedclothes, bedding or parts thereof unless the same have~~
10 ~~been cleansed and sterilized in the manner herein prescribed.~~

11 ~~—(b) Definition. Wiping rags within the meaning of this Section are cloths and rags used for~~
12 ~~wiping and cleaning the surfaces of machinery, machines, tools, locomotives, engines, motorcars,~~
13 ~~automobiles, cars, carriages, windows, furniture and surfaces of articles, in factories, shops,~~
14 ~~steamships and steamboats, and generally in industrial employments; and also used by mechanics and~~
15 ~~workmen for wiping from their hands and bodies soil incident to their employment.~~

16 ~~—(c) Sterilization. All soiled cloths and rags and soiled and disused and cast-off~~
17 ~~underclothing, garments, bedclothes, bedding and parts thereof, before being offered for sale, or sold~~
18 ~~or furnished for use as wiping rags must be subjected to a process of sterilizing approved by the~~
19 ~~Director of Public Health of the City and County of San Francisco, including the process of boiling for~~
20 ~~a period of 40 minutes in a solution of caustic soda mentioned in this section. Before washing, all~~
21 ~~sleeves, legs and bodies of garments must be ripped and opened and all garments made into flat pieces.~~

22 ~~—(d) Use of Premises. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to wash,~~
23 ~~cleanse, sterilize, or dry, disused or cast-off clothing, garments, underclothing, bedclothes, bedding or~~
24 ~~parts thereof, or soiled cloths or rags in the same building or by the same machines or appliances by~~
25 ~~which clothing, bedding, or other articles for personal or household use are laundered.~~

1 ~~—(e) Labels. Each package or parcel of wiping rags before being sold must be plainly marked~~
2 ~~"Sterilized Wiping Rags," with the number and date of the certificate given by the Director of Public~~
3 ~~Health of the said city and county for the conducting of a laundry in which the rags contained in such~~
4 ~~package or parcel were cleansed and sterilized or with the name and location of the laundry in which~~
5 ~~said rags were cleansed and sterilized.~~

6 ~~—(f) Imported Wiping Rags. Wiping rags imported into this city and county from other cities,~~
7 ~~counties or states, shall not be used, sold or offered for sale, unless they have been cleansed and~~
8 ~~sterilized as herein required or unless such imported rags are inspected by the Director of Public~~
9 ~~Health, and a certificate given by him that such rags have been inspected and cleansed and sterilized~~
10 ~~as required by this Section.~~

11 ~~—(g) Inspection, Etc. The Director of Public Health shall inspect all wiping rags and give a~~
12 ~~certificate to that effect when the rags inspected have been cleansed and sterilized as required by this~~
13 ~~Section. Such certificate shall also state the date of inspection, the quantity and number of parcels~~
14 ~~inspected, the name of the owner and the place where the wiping rags were cleansed and sterilized.~~

15 ~~—All persons having wiping rags in their possession for sale or for use shall, upon demand of~~
16 ~~any officer of the Department of Public Health or any police officer, exhibit such wiping rags for~~
17 ~~inspection and give all information as to where and from whom said wiping rags were obtained.~~

18
19 **SEC. 695. PERMIT REQUIRED—ENFORCEMENT.**

20 ~~—It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to establish or maintain a laundry for~~
21 ~~cleaning or sterilizing wiping rags or soiled clothes or rags or soiled and disused or cast-off clothing,~~
22 ~~garments, underclothing, bedclothes, bedding or parts thereof, within the limits of the City and County~~
23 ~~of San Francisco, without having first complied with Section 354 of Article 7 hereof, regulating the~~
24 ~~conducting of public laundries and obtain a permit therefor as required by Section 695 of this Article.~~
25 ~~No person, firm or corporation shall engage in the business of laundering, cleaning or sterilizing cloths~~

~~or material for wiping rags, or selling wiping rags without a permit therefor from the Department of Public Health. Such permit shall be granted as a matter of course on the first application, and may be revoked by the Department of Public Health for violation by the holder of any of the provisions of Section 694 of this Article. Subsequent permits to a person, firm or corporation in place of a permit revoked may be granted or refused at the discretion of the Department. The Department of Public Health shall keep a register of all persons engaged in laundering, cleaning, sterilizing or selling wiping rags, and shall enter therein the place of business, the date of issue and the revocation of permit.~~

Section 3. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles, numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the "Note" that appears under the official title of the ordinance.

Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective on the 31st day after enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

By: /s/ Bradley A. Russi
BRADLEY A. RUSSI
Deputy City Attorney

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Health Code - Code Cleanup]

Ordinance amending the Health Code to repeal the prohibition on transporting bread in open baskets or containers on City streets, the prohibition on selling unsterilized rags and other types of cloth to be used for cleaning in industrial places of employment and related regulations, and the prohibition on operating a laundry for sterilizing such rags without a permit.

Existing Law

The Health Code prohibits the conveyance of bread, cakes, or pastries intended for human consumption through public streets in open baskets or in exposed containers or vehicles.

The Health Code prohibits the sale of soiled rags, underclothing, garments, bedding, or parts thereof to be used as “wiping rags” for cleaning in industrial employment settings unless properly sterilized. Employers are prohibited from providing employees unsterilized wiping rags. Such sterilization cannot occur in the same building or using the same machines that are used to launder personal or household items. Sterilized rags must be properly labeled when sold. The Department of Public Health is required to inspect and certify properly sterilized wiping rags. A laundry that launders or sterilizes wiping rags must hold a permit from the Department of Public Health.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would repeal the antiquated provisions of the Health Code described above.

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco 94102-4689
Tel. No. (415) 554-5184
Fax No. (415) 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. (415) 554-5227

MEMORANDUM

TO: Daniel Tsai, Director, Department of Public Health

FROM: Monique Crayton, Assistant Clerk, Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee, Board of Supervisors

DATE: May 27, 2026

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee has received the following ordinance request, introduced on May 19, 2026:

File No. 260545

Health Code - Code Cleanup

Ordinance amending the Health Code to repeal the prohibition on transporting bread in open baskets or containers on City streets, the prohibition on selling unsterilized rags and other types of cloth to be used for cleaning in industrial places of employment and related regulations, and the prohibition on operating a laundry for sterilizing such rags without a permit.

If you have any comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102.

CC:
Office of Chair Dorsey
Office of Supervisor Wong
Dr. Naveena Bobba, Department of Public Health
Sneha Patil, Department of Public Health
Raghda Karajah, Department of Public Health

Introduction Form

(by a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor)

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2026 MAY 19 PM02:09

[Handwritten signature]

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- ☒ 1. For reference to Committee (Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment)
- ☐ 2. Request for next printed agenda (For Adoption Without Committee Reference)
(Routine, non-controversial and/or commendatory matters only)
- ☐ 3. Request for Hearing on a subject matter at Committee
- ☐ 4. Request for Letter beginning with "Supervisor _____ inquires..."
- ☐ 5. City Attorney Request
- ☐ 6. Call File No. _____ from Committee.
- ☐ 7. Budget and Legislative Analyst Request (attached written Motion)
- ☐ 8. Substitute Legislation File No. _____
- ☐ 9. Reactivate File No. _____
- ☐ 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the Board on _____

The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following (please check all appropriate boxes):

- ☐ Small Business Commission ☐ Youth Commission ☐ Ethics Commission
- ☐ Planning Commission ☐ Building Inspection Commission ☐ Human Resources Department

General Plan Referral sent to the Planning Department (proposed legislation subject to Charter 4.105 & Admin 2A.53):

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

(Note: For Imperative Agenda items (a Resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Agenda Form.)

Sponsor(s):

Wong, Sherrill

Subject:

Health Code - Code Cleanup

Long Title or text listed:

Ordinance amending the Health Code to repeal the prohibition on transporting bread in open baskets or containers on City streets, the prohibition on selling unsterilized rags and other types of cloth to be used for cleaning in industrial places of employment and related regulations, and the prohibition on operating a laundry for sterilizing such rags without a permit.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:

[Handwritten signature]