Tennessee Department of Agriculture
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Charlie Hatcher, D.V.M.
Commissioner

Bill Lee
Governor

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Thank you for your inquiry regarding whether the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) has any laws, codes, or regulations that require customers or patrons to wear shoes or other footwear while inside certain businesses, such as grocery stores, convenience stores, or other facilities that fall under the department's regulatory oversight.

As you correctly noted, private businesses retain the right to establish their own dress codes, which may include requirements for footwear. However, with regard to specific regulations enforced by the TDA, there are no current laws or codes that mandate customers or patrons to wear shoes or footwear inside these types of businesses under the department's jurisdiction. The TDA's food safety regulations primarily focus on ensuring the health and safety of food preparation, handling, and storage environments.

Should you have further questions or need additional clarification, feel free to contact me directly.

Thank you for reaching out, and I hope this information proves helpful.

Danny Withers
Food Safety Director
Tennessee Department of Agriculture