

SUBJECT: Changing maximum allowable fees for food service permits

COMMITTEE: County Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Coleman, Bohac, Anderson, Biedermann, Cole, Dominguez, Huberty, Rosenthal, Stickland

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Shaun May, Bi-City-County Public Health District; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jim Allison, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas; Russell Schaffner, Tarrant County; Craig Holzheuser, Texas Association of City and County Health Officials; Gabriela Villareal, Texas Conference of Urban Counties; Julie Wheeler, Travis County Commissioners Court)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Health and Safety Code secs. 437.012 and 437.0123 allow counties and public health districts to charge fees for issuing or renewing permits for food service establishments, retail food stores, mobile food units, and roadside food vendors. These fees are capped at certain amounts and are required to be spent only on conducting inspections.

Some suggest the upper limits on these fees may no longer cover the expenses incurred by many counties and districts in performing inspections.

DIGEST: HB 2755 would limit the fee charged by any county or public health district for issuing or renewing a food service permit to the amount necessary to recover the costs of conducting required inspections.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.