

Colorado Legislative Council Staff

SB17-244

FISCAL NOTE

FISCAL IMPACT: ☐ State ☒ Local ☐ Statutory Public Entity ☐ Conditional ☐ No Fiscal Impact

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BILL TOPIC: RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENT FEES

Summary of Legislation

This bill allows a county or district board of health to establish retail food establishment license fees that are lower than those set in statute if the county or district board of health is in compliance with the Colorado Food Protection Act. The bill removes language that prohibits a county government from using the increased fee revenue generated under House Bill 16-1401 for other county programs.

Background

HB16-1401 increased the annual licensing fees paid by retail food establishments beginning January 1, 2017. Additional increases on January 1, 2018, and January 1, 2019, are contingent upon compliance with specific statutory requirements.

State and local public health agency food safety programs are funded by licence fees for retail food establishments. Forty-three dollars of each fee collected is applied to the Food Protection Cash Fund in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to cover the administrative costs of the licensing program, to investigate complaints filed against licensees, to promulgate rules by the State Board of Health related to food safety, to develop and enforce uniform statewide food safety standards, and to provide technical assistance and training related to the implementation of food safety regulations. The remainder of the licensing fee is retained by the local public health agency or, for counties without their own inspection programs, by the CDPHE for the costs of inspections.

Local Government Impact

This bill will result in a reduction in revenue for counties that choose to charge licensing fees for retail food establishments below those set in statute. It will also enable counties that subsidized the cost of inspections from their general funds to recoup those costs.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 9, 2017, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 10, 2017, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

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