



SB 1008, Consistent Restaurant Regulations, Saves Texas Foodservice Businesses Time and Money

Beginning on September 1, 2025, SB 1008—the TRA’s signature bill of the 2025 Texas legislative session—delivers eight reforms to help foodservice businesses like restaurants, caterers, and food trucks save time and money. SB 1008 is a compromise, balancing the important role that the state’s roughly 200 health departments play in public health with the regulatory predictability that local businesses need to thrive.

Fee Caps

SB 1008 limits the permit fees that local health departments charge foodservice businesses. With limited exceptions, [the state’s fee chart](#) acts as a ceiling, allowing local governments to set annual fees that are equal to or less than the state’s biennial fees. Exceptions are based on health department input and address larger health departments, reinspections, and federal consent decrees or orders. Even with these exceptions, the fee caps bring much-needed predictability and financial stability to restaurants while helping local governments maintain a fair, transparent permitting process.

Fewer Permits

SB 1008 says that local governments may only require the types of permits that the state requires for foodservice businesses. In other words, a restaurant should not need many different permits such as candle, CO2, or outdoor heater permits to operate a single location.

Alcohol Fees

SB 1008 saves foodservice businesses money by stating that, once they pay for a food or health permit, then they cannot also be charged a local alcohol fee. These fees were duplicative since restaurants selling alcohol must obtain a permit from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

Food Managers

SB 1008 saves foodservice employees time and money by clarifying that state certified food managers cannot be required to file paperwork or pay fees for a local food manager card. This ensures a state-issued certification is valid across Texas, saving employees time and money while maintaining consistent food safety standards.



Government Transparency

SB 1008 requires local health departments to provide an opportunity for Texans to sign up for email updates. Then, at least 60 days before a local health department changes a fee, permit, or inspection protocol, SB 1008 requires the health department to notify everyone who signed up for the email updates. Local health departments must also share their fee schedules to be published in an [online database](#) at least 60 days before they go into effect.

Sound Regulations

SB 1008 ensures local restaurants do not need to pay for costly sound engineering studies or permits to (1) play background music on their patios during normal business hours or (2) accept deliveries, including at night. Local governments may continue to enforce sound regulations against bad actors and other types of businesses, like nightclubs.

Business Catering

SB 1008 clarifies that restaurants and food trucks do not need to obtain separate catering permits or pay new fees to deliver and serve food prepared in their permitted kitchens at offices or other workplaces. Standard food safety rules, including food handler and manager certification requirements, still apply and ensure safety without unnecessary red tape.

Enforcement

SB 1008 allows Texans to seek relief in the courts if a local government adopts foodservice rules that conflict with state law. To discourage unnecessary lawsuits, relief is limited to declaratory and injunctive relief, plus court costs and attorney's fees. In addition, before anyone may file a lawsuit under the bill, they must first provide three months' notice and an opportunity to cure the alleged violation.

Questions About A Fee Or Rule? Contact Us!

The TRA is committed to partnering with foodservice businesses and health departments to implement SB 1008. We have created a toolkit and continue to update our education resources to address common questions.

Please reach out to us at advocacy@txrestaurant.org if we can assist you with SB 1008 or any other foodservice concern.