



City of Dallas

Aligning Dallas City Code Chapter 17 with Senate Bill 1008 and the Texas Food Establishment Rules

**Quality of Life, Arts, &
Culture Committee
November 17, 2025**

Cedric Secoundiata, Assistant Director
Code Compliance Services
City of Dallas

Presentation Overview



- Background and Purpose
- Overview of Senate Bill 1008
- Impact on Dallas City Code Chapter 17
- Proposed Alignment Actions
- Fiscal and Operational Implications
- Implementation Timeline and Next Steps
- Policy Considerations



Background and Purpose



- Senate Bill 1008 preempts local regulation of food establishments statewide.
- Dallas must align Chapter 17 (Food Establishments) with state law and current Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) rules.
- Goal: ensure consistency, maintain enforcement authority, and provide clarity for operators.
- This alignment preserves Dallas's ability to regulate food safety while meeting state uniformity requirements.



Overview of Senate Bill 1008



- Establishes statewide regulatory consistency for food establishments.
- Requires cities to adopt Texas Food Establishment Rules (25 TAC § 228) and the FDA Model Food Code by reference.
- Limits local fees to no more than 120 percent of DSHS rates.
- Prohibits local requirements that are more stringent than those of DSHS.
- Effective September 1, 2025.



Impact on Dallas City Code - Chapter 17



- Adopt the 2021 Texas Food Establishment Rules (25 TAC § 228) and FDA Model Food Code by reference to ensure statewide consistency and automatic alignment with DSHS updates.
- Remove outdated local provisions referencing City-specific food-handler requirements and any standards more restrictive than state law.
- Maintain Dallas's risk-based inspection system consistent with TFER § 228.243, reaffirming compliance with state inspection methodology.
- Align the Retail Food Permit Fee Schedule with the DSHS Retail Food Establishment Fee Schedule, remaining within the 120 percent statutory cap.



Fiscal and Operational Implications



- Revenue neutral implementation
- Streamlined administrative process
- Consistent regulatory framework statewide
- Staff trained and implementation-ready
- No reduction in service or inspection quality





Policy Considerations

- Amend Chapter 17 to align with Senate Bill 1008 and the 2021 Texas Food Establishment Rules by reference.
- Adopt the revised Fee Schedule consistent with the DSHS Retail Food Establishment Fee Schedule.
- Authorize submission of the adopted ordinance and fee schedule to DSHS for verification and publication.



Next Steps



- Full Council consideration (Consent Agenda) – December 10, 2025
- Submit adopted ordinance and fee schedule to DSHS





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