



**SUPPORT SB17-244**  
**Retail Food Establishment Fees**  
Sponsor: Sen. Priola, Rep. Gray

SB17-244 modifies two provisions of HB16-1401 to provide flexibility for counties who chose to administer the food inspection program for the state.

**Issue:**

Through the collaborative efforts of many stakeholders, HB16-1401 achieved a long-standing county priority of increasing retail food establishment license and inspection fees over a period of three years.

CCI is seeking to modify last year's bill as follows:

- 1.) Removal of the 'supplanting language'.
- 2.) Add authority to reduce fees below their statutorily established cap as long as all statutory performance expectations can be met

**Background:**

Food inspection programs that are administered by counties are supported by a mix of state and county general funds and annual license fees that are paid for by retail food establishments.

**Solution:**

*Supplanting language*

County Commissioners, like the Legislature, are responsible for balancing their budgets and living within available revenues. Counties need the budgetary flexibility to decrease their county general fund dollars when necessary (think Great Recession, dropping residential assessment rates, etc.) to any and all programs they implement for the state, including the food safety program. Protecting the public from food borne illnesses will always be paramount but insulating any one program from budget cuts ties the hands of county commissioners who are routinely challenged to do more with less.

*Authority to reduce fees*

The economic recovery in Colorado has not affected all counties equally. Establishing the fee as a cap in statute allows county officials to consider whether the fee increases are appropriate in light of local economic circumstances and inspection program costs.

**Please SUPPORT SB17-244**

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