

By: Deuell

S.B. No. 552

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the accreditation of basic food safety education and training programs for food handlers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 438.041, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 438.041. DEFINITION. In this subchapter:

(1) "Department" [~~,"department"~~] means the [Texas] Department of State Health Services.

(2) "Food handler" means a food service employee who works with unpackaged food, food equipment or utensils, or food-contact surfaces.

SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 438, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 438.0431 to read as follows:

Sec. 438.0431. BASIC FOOD SAFETY ACCREDITATION.

(a) Notwithstanding Section 438.043, the department may accredit an education or training program for basic food safety for food handlers as provided by this section.

(b) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall by rule define the basic food safety training or education required to be included in a course curriculum. The course length may not exceed two hours.

(c) A training or education program accredited under this section may require a participant to achieve a passing score on an

1 examination to successfully complete the course for certification.

2 (d) A program accredited under this section may be delivered
3 through the Internet.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.