

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on County Affairs
For HB 1247

Compiled on: Monday, April 24, 2023 11:52 AM

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Hearing Date: April 19, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

bobby beaver
Giglio Distributing
Beaumont, TX

This Bill will help local businesses save money by reducing duplicative local permits. It will also ensure local health department inspection rules are predictable and reasonable. This bill will help create continuity for operators who have business in multiple counties. I support this bill. Thank you.

Roger Kaplan
RK iNOVATION
Dallas, TX

This Bill helps me in my business save money by reducing duplicative local permits, b. Save your food managers from having to pay a local fee, c. Ensuring that local health department inspection rules are predictable and reasonable, and d. Preventing you from having to pull a permit or pay a fee just to play background music on your outdoor patio. Please support this bill

Tracy Vaught, Pres
HTown Restaurant Group
Houston, TX

It is difficult to keep track of all the regulations. Please help us keep them consistent county to county.

Jonathan Horowitz
Buffalo Bayou Brewing Company and Convive Hospitality Consulting
Houston, TX

I currently run a brewery and taproom/restaurant in Houston where we employ 80+ people. I am writing in support of this bill as I know it will help businesses like ours by reducing the number of permits we need to have (and pay for) and by creating some level of consistency with regard to health inspection rules and regulations. This business is tough enough without having to deal with overbroad and unnecessary regulations.

James Moore, President/CEO

Moore Food Now LLC

San Antonio, TX

This would:

- a. save money by reducing duplicative local permits,
- b. save our food managers from having to pay a local fee,
- c. ensuring that local health department inspection rules are predictable and reasonable, and
- d. preventing us from having to pull a permit or pay a fee just to play background music on outdoor patio.

david denney

self, attorney

Dallas, TX

My law firm represents independent (non-chain) restaurants across the State of Texas.

While this bill is important for all restaurants, it will be most impactful for independent (mom & pop) restaurateurs. By reducing duplicative local permits and saving food managers from having to pay a local fee, the bill will provide needed assistance. By ensuring local health department inspection rules are predictable and reasonable, these restaurants will be protected from myriad patchwork regulations that make running these businesses so difficult. Finally, protecting restaurants from having to pull a permit or pay a fee just to play background music the patio will streamline regulations regarding sound in a common sense manner - and since the public playing of music is highly regulated and expensive, it will ease the burden on these restaurants who merely want to enhance the atmosphere of their premises by playing music.

Maria Corbeil

Den-Tex dba Denny's Franchise

San Antonio, TX

We are in full support of HB 1247 and believe it is needed to help streamline regulations for the restaurant industry and we ask for your support.

The bill will help us in the following ways:

- a. save us money by reducing duplicative local permits
- b. save our food managers from having to pay a local fee
- c. ensuring that local health department inspection rules are predictable and reasonable - inspections are all over the place and consistency.
- d. preventing us from having to pull a permit or pay a fee just to play background music on our outdoor patio

Blanca Aldaco, Owner
Aldaco's Mexican Cuisine
San Antonio, TX

I am for this important bill that relates everything to my restaurant, Aldaco's Mexican Cuisine.
This bill will give us consistency in practices at state level.

I am definitely for payless less dollars in what I consider double practice, for example the renewal of a liquor license (MB) with TABC then pay additional fees to the City of San Antonio.
I feel the same for double dipping on food certifications for our managers.

We are a very important industry that generates millions of dollars in sales tax, create jobs at all levels therefore thousands of dollars for me in payroll taxes and a high uncontrollable food cost as well as credit card fees. Any relief in fees and consistency of mandated laws is much appreciated.

Blanca Aldaco - 34 years in business.
Self made
www.aldacosrestaurants.com

blanca@aldacosrestaurants.com or text to connect 210-884-0123 if you want my passion over this in person.
Have a great day.

James Clark
Mosquito Cafe
Galveston, TX

This bill will help me save money by reducing redundant permits, prevent our food managers from having to pay local fees, will make local health department inspection rules predictable and reasonable, and will prevent me from having to pull a permit or pay a fee to have background music on our patio. Please help make an environment where our small businesses can thrive and stimulate local economy instead of get bogged down with so many fees and inconsistencies.

David Cole, Mr
TX Restaurant Association
Irving, TX

Please vote for this Bill.

ricardo molina

Molina's Ent.

Houston, TX

Good morning,

My name is Ricardo Molina, I am a third generation restaurateur with our family business that was established 1941 in Houston, Texas. We currently have 3 locations, one in Houston, Texas, one in Southside Place, Texas, a small municipality near West University Place. These are both in Harris County and our newest location in Fulshear, Texas, Fort Bend County.

With these three locations we are subject to three health Departments. Houston health department for our Houston location, Harris County Health for our Southside Place location and just recently our Fulshear location was switched from Fort Bend Health to City of Fulshear Health. We have identical businesses and often rotate managers to different locations as needed.

Changes in code in different areas as well as interpretations can be a difficult and expensive task to keep up with. In an effort to prevent food borne illness, which should be everyone's goal, standardization should be a priority. Constant changing or inconsistent regulation does not help our cause. Any changes should be backed up by food science, not opinions or interpretations. I fully support Sec. 437.009 as well as 437.0091. There should be a way to educate operators to any changes before enforcement.

I support Sec. 437.027 Sound Regulations

In my experience, new regulations are driven by a very small minority of vocal residents that may be by one particular business and doesn't warrant a wholesale re-write of ordinances. Standardization is best.

Sec. 438.1055 - Prohibited Requirement of Local Food Manager Card Or Local Fee - I am very familiar with this process in Houston. Since its inception, it has been nothing more than a cash grab. If a manager is certified in Texas, that certification should be valid. Going to the Houston Health Department or another, giving them money and receiving a piece of paper does nothing to prevent food borne illness.

When we rotate managers, this is a roadblock especially in urgent situations.

I support this bill

Sincerely,

Ricardo Molina

Jim Hallers, Managing Partner

Citizens Grill

Conroe, TX

As a restaurant owner in multiple Texas counties I appreciate consistent rules and regulations. HB 1247 helps eliminate extra steps in certain jurisdictions, for example Food Manager certifications once granted at the state level should not require an additional city or county fee for a local version (because it's really just a annoying tax on each employee to get it). It does not offer any additional health or safety benefit.

Rusty Swanson, Owner
Rooster's Chicken -N- Ro-Jo's. / TRA
San Angelo, TX

We need to ensure that restaurant owners have fair treatment when it comes to local permitting so that we are not paying double fee's and over regulating.

This can affect us in many areas. Such as areas like

Local permits for alcohol consumption, noise regulation, etc. We are asking for your help, so that we can continue to service our consumers without extra requirements hindering us through unfair and costly fees and/or inspections.

Thank you

Alli Jarrett
Self
Houston, TX

Currently we have many duplications. For example, our managers and lead cooks have a certified food manager certificate and then have to pay the City of Houston for an additional city certificate. This bill will help us save time and money by eliminating duplicative local permits. Thank you very much for helping ensure the rules are reasonable. Alli Jarrett