



Please vote No unless amended on HB 16-1401

Retail Food Establishment Licensure and Inspection

Sponsors: Reps. K. Becker & Priola/Sens. Woods & Hodge

HB 1401 is the product of a task force that met over the 2015 interim to identify changes to the inspection process and fee schedules for retail food establishments. Among other provisions, HB 1401 increases annual license fees for retail food establishments and phases in the increase over the next 3 years. The bill also requires the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to create a uniform system to communicate health inspection results to the public and sets limitations on the development of the uniform system. The uniform system must provide meaningful and reasonably detailed information to the public and must not summarize the results of the inspection with a letter, number, or symbol grading system, or a similar oversimplified method of quantifying results.

Following a lengthy debate on April 8, CCI's membership found at least three elements of the bill to be unacceptable. They rejected the supplanting language, arguing that if they had overspent general funds for years they had a right to reduce those funds with the new fees. The prohibition on letter, number and symbol grades was unacceptable to counties who have implemented such communications and feel that they work well for the public. Finally, there was concern about state interference in local matters of implementation, including a concern that a few counties wanted the option to raise the fees or hold them stable.

CCI opposes HB 1401 unless these issues are resolved in appropriate amendments.

CCI asks for your No vote unless amended on HB 16-1401

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