



SB 1008, Consistent Restaurant Regulations, Saves Texas Foodservice Businesses Time and Money

Beginning on September 1, 2025, the TRA's signature bill of the 2025 Texas legislative session delivers eight reforms to help foodservice businesses like restaurants, caterers, and food trucks as they navigate rules and fees that can vary significantly between the state's roughly 200 different health departments:

Fee Caps

SB 1008 limits the permit fees that local health departments charge foodservice businesses. With limited exceptions, [the state's fee chart](#) acts as a ceiling, allowing local governments to set annual fees that are equal to or less than the state's fees. This creates critical relief for many restaurants at a time when inflation is hurting local businesses and their consumers.

Fewer Permits

SB 1008 says that local governments may only require the types of permits that the state requires for foodservice businesses. In other words, a restaurant should not need many different permits such as candle, CO2, or outdoor heater permits to operate a single location.

Alcohol Fees

SB 1008 saves foodservice businesses money by stating that, once they pay for a food or health permit, then they cannot also be charged a local alcohol fee. These fees were duplicative since restaurants selling alcohol must obtain a permit from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

Food Managers

SB 1008 saves foodservice employees time and money by clarifying that state certified food managers cannot be required to file paperwork or pay fees for a local food manager card. These certificates are valid across Texas, similar to many other credentials.

Sound Regulations

SB 1008 ensures local restaurants do not need to pay for costly sound engineering studies or permits to (1) play background music on their patios during normal business hours or (2) accept deliveries, including at night. Local governments may continue to enforce sound regulations against bad actors and other types of businesses, like nightclubs.



Government Transparency

SB 1008 requires local health departments to provide an opportunity for Texans to sign up for email updates. Then, at least 60 days before a local health department changes a fee, permit, or inspection protocol, SB 1008 requires the health department to notify everyone who signed up for the email updates. Local health departments must also share their fee schedules to be published in an [online database](#) at least 60 days before they go into effect.

Business Catering

SB 1008 ensures that restaurants and food trucks do not have to pull catering permits or pay new fees to transport food they prepared on their permitted premises and serve it at an office building or other workplace. This protects a new business model third-party companies have launched with local restaurants to feed multiple tenants in one building.

Enforcement

SB 1008 allows Texans to seek relief in the courts if a local government adopts foodservice rules that conflict with state law. Before SB 1008, the foodservice industry had to wait for a legislative session to try and pass a new law to fix the problem. With this new language, foodservice businesses have a remedy to stop illegal regulations.

Concerned About A Fee Or Rule? Contact Us!

We have a toolkit to help restaurants and foodservice professionals realize the full benefits of SB 1008. Reach out to us at advocacy@txrestaurant.org to learn more and get help.

And Please Help Us Deliver More Restaurant Wins!

SB 1008 is a powerful example of the value of TRA advocacy. If every foodservice business that saves time and money from SB 1008 invests a small portion of their savings forward, we can deliver even more restaurant wins.

- If you're not yet a member of the Texas Restaurant Association, now is the time to [join](#) and strengthen our industry's voice in government.
- Already a member? Help us keep the momentum going by [investing in our advocacy work](#) and sharing this information with a colleague who isn't engaged with the TRA yet.