

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: July 11, 2011
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: SB 303
AUTHOR: A. Padilla
RELATED BILLS: SB 602 (Padilla)

BILL SUMMARY: Food Safety: Food Handlers

This bill, an urgency measure, clarifies which food handlers are required to obtain a food handler card. This bill also would require that, commencing January 1, 2012, a food handler obtain their food handler card only from an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited training provider. Further, this bill would clarify the types of food facilities that are exempt from the food handler certification requirements.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Department of Public Health does not anticipate any additional workload or costs associated with the implementation of this bill.

COMMENTS

Finance is neutral on this bill as it would not create a need for additional state resources.

Existing law defines a food handler as an individual who is involved in the preparation, storage, or service of food in a food facility, other than an individual holding a valid food safety certificate, or an individual involved in the preparation, storage, or service of food in a temporary food facility.

This bill clarifies that the requirement to obtain a food handler card is limited to food handlers employed at a food facility, which the bill defines as a facility that sells food for human consumption to the general public.

Existing law requires, with specified exemptions, a food handler who is hired prior to June 1, 2011, to obtain a food handler card on or before July 1, 2011, and food handlers hired after June 1, 2011, to obtain a food handler card within 30 days of their date of hire.

Existing law exempts any food handlers that work in the following facilities from obtaining a food handler card: (1) certified farmer's markets, (2) commissaries, (3) most grocery stores, (4) licensed health care facilities, (5) mobile support units, (6) school cafeterias, (7) restricted food service facilities, (8) pharmacies and venues with snack bar service in which the majority of sales are from admission tickets (9) food facilities with specified in-house food training programs, (10) food facilities subject to a collective bargaining agreement with food handlers, (11) state prisons, county jails and other facilities used for the confinement of adults and minors, and (12) nutrition programs for the elderly administered by the California Department of Aging.

This bill would, prior to January 1, 2012, allow a food handler to obtain a food handler card from either an ANSI accredited training provider or a food protection manager certification organization accredited by ANSI. After January 1, 2012, this bill would require a food handler obtain a food handler card exclusively from an ANSI accredited training provider.

Existing law allows a food handler training and assessment course to be offered through a trainer-led class and assessment or a self-training and assessment, as defined.

Analyst/Principal Date Program Budget Manager Date
(0553) B. Nunes Lisa Ann L. Mangat

Department Deputy Director Date

Governor's Office: By: Date: Position Approved
Position Disapproved

BILL ANALYSIS Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

A. Padilla

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This bill would require that any training course or examination taken through a computer program or the Internet must have sufficient security channels and procedures to guard against fraudulent activity. This bill would also require a food safety certification examination that is provided with an in-person trainer-led class or offered online be proctored under secure conditions to protect the validity of the examination.

This bill includes an urgency clause and would require this act to take effect immediately in order to enable food handlers to have more options toward improving food safety.

Related Bill: Chapter 309, Statutes of 2010 (SB 602, Padilla) intended to reduce and prevent incidents of food-borne illnesses by ensuring that all individuals who handle, serve, or sell non-prepackaged food to the public are familiar with responsible food practices.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO LA CO RV	PROP 98	FC	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)				Fund Code	
				(Dollars in Thousands)					
				2010-2011	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	
4265/PublicHealth	SO	No		----- No/Minor Fiscal Impact -----				0001	