



Proposed Language to Amend SB 602 (2009-10)

SUMMARY OF THE BILL (Enacted in 2010)

The California Retail Food Code provides for the regulation of health and sanitation standards for retail food facilities by the State Department of Public Health. Under existing law, a violation of these provisions is a misdemeanor. Local health agencies are primarily responsible for enforcing this law. This law generally requires food facilities, except temporary food facilities, to have an owner or employee who has successfully passed an approved and accredited food safety certification examination from an accredited food protection manager certification organization, except as specified. This bill would require at least one of the accredited food safety certification examinations to be offered online. This bill would also require, with specified exceptions, a food handler, as defined, who is hired prior to June 1, 2011, to obtain a food handler card on or before July 1, 2011. The bill would require food handlers hired after June 1, 2011, to obtain a food handler card within 30 days of his or her date of hire. It would require each food handler to maintain a valid food handler card for the duration of his or her employment as a food handler. This bill would exempt from compliance any food handler subject to an existing local food handler program that took effect prior to January 1, 2009, and would also require a food facility that employs food handlers to maintain records documenting that each food handler employed by the facility possesses a food handler card. The bill would require at least one food handler training course to cost no more than \$15 and, if a training course is not available at that cost, would remove the requirement to obtain a food handler card.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Propose amendments to this bill for any forthcoming “Clean Up” legislation.

- Section 113790. “ Food Handler” means 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 issued pursuant to Section 113947.3, or an individual involved in the preparation, storage , or service of food in a temporary food facility, **or an occasional volunteer for a non-profit entity. or**
- Section 113948 (e) The requirement of this section shall not apply to a food handler subject to an existing local food handler program that took effect prior to January 1, 2009, **or an occasional volunteer for a non-profit entity.**

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION/IMPACT TO COUNTY

- Non – profit entities have many seasonal volunteers that might find the requirement of a food handler certificate subduing their spirit of volunteerism.
- The food handler card requirement would add an additional burden for non-profits to turn away volunteers at time when they are in the greatest need for temporary assistance, like seasonal holidays, when many needy people arrive for food service.
- Regular part time and full time volunteers should have food handler training card. They would benefit from the training because they are the core of the food volunteers that support the main staff of the facility.
- An occasional volunteer would sporadically rather than regularly volunteer at the facility.
- Requiring cards would place a burden on regulators to examine the cards of these occasional volunteers as the cards, held by the food handler, would have to verified at the time of these unusual events.

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