

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Henderson County Board of Commissioners

MEETING DATE: September 16, 2009

SUBJECT: Request for Food and Lodging Plan Review Fee Increase

ATTACHMENTS: Yes

1. Note from Seth Swift, Environmental Health Supervisor
2. Session Law 209-451 Section 13.2(b)

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The North Carolina General Assembly during its last session approved a provision that allows county governments to raise the fee charged for plan review. During the September 8, 2009 Henderson County Board of Health meeting the motion passed unanimously for the local plan review service be increased from \$ 200 to \$ 250 and that the Henderson County Board of County Commissioners approve this fee increase.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to increase the local plan review service from \$ 200 to \$ 250.

Suggested Motion:

I move that the Henderson County Department of Public Health's Food and Lodging Plan Review service fee be increased from \$ 200 to \$ 250 to help cover the cost of the program and that this fee increase be made effective immediately.

Henderson County

Department of Public Health

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION

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Thomas D. Bridges, MPH, Director

Seth Swift, R.S. Environmental Health Supervisor



September 8, 2009

Fee Increase Request for Food and Lodging Plan Review from \$200 to \$250

- The North Carolina General Assembly passed a budget for 2009-2010 that contained a provision which allows local counties to raise the fee charged for plan review. In order to raise the fee approval must be given by the Board of Health and the county commissioners.
- The amount of time spent in plan review is extensive for the staff. Review not only includes approval of plans, but several site visits to the facility to ensure that all construction and equipment meet code.
- Plan review fees are normally charged to a brand new facility that has not been a restaurant in the past. There are a few occasions where kitchens in restaurants are being extensively renovated and a fee would be required.
- Even with the downturn in the economy, the demand for food and lodging services has increased at about 10% over last year.
- For example, the number of mobile food units permitted in Henderson County went from 4 at the start of 2008 to over 14 in 2009.
- Facilities that would be required to pay this fee include: restaurants, food stands, meat markets, and school lunchrooms.
- I would recommend increasing this fee to help cover the cost of the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seth Swift".

Seth W. Swift, REHS

Environmental Health Supervisor II

FOOD AND LODGING INSPECTION FEES INCREASES

SECTION 13.2.(a) Effective August 15, 2009, G.S. 130A-248(d) reads as rewritten:

"(d) The Department shall charge each establishment subject to this section, except nutrition programs for the elderly administered by the Division of Aging of the Department of Health and Human Services, establishments that prepare and sell meat food products or poultry products, and public school cafeterias, an annual fee of ~~fifty dollars (\$50.00)~~ seventy-five dollars (\$75.00). The Commission shall adopt rules to implement this subsection. Fees collected under this subsection shall be used for State and local food, lodging, and institution sanitation programs and activities. No more than thirty-three and one-third percent (33 1/3%) of the fees collected under this subsection may be used to support State health programs and activities."

SECTION 13.2.(b) Effective August 15, 2009, G.S. 130A-248(e) reads as rewritten:

"(e) In addition to the fees under subsection (d) of this section, the Department may charge a fee of ~~two hundred dollars (\$200.00)~~ two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for plan review of plans for prototype franchised or chain facilities for food establishments subject to this section. All of the fees collected under this subsection may be used to support the State food, lodging, and institution sanitation programs and activities under this Part."

SECTION 13.2.(c) G.S. 130A-248(f) reads as rewritten:

"(f) Any local health department may charge a fee not to exceed ~~two hundred dollars (\$200.00)~~ two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for plan review by that local health department of plans for food establishments subject to this section that are not subject to subsection (e) of this section. All of the fees collected under this subsection may be used for local food, lodging, and institution sanitation programs and activities. No food establishment that pays a fee under subsection (e) of this section is liable for a fee under this subsection."