

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Health, Business and Tax Regulations, Public Works Codes - Compact Mobile Food Operation Definitions and Fees]

Ordinance amending the Health and Business and Tax Regulations Codes to revise the definition of a mobile food facility permit and add definitions for compact mobile food operations, mobile support unit, and permitted auxiliary conveyance permits to reflect recent amendments to the California Retail Food Code, and revise existing definitions of various other terms to reflect State law definitions in that Code; establish annual permit and plan check fees for auxiliary conveyance, compact mobile food operation, and mobile support unit permits; and remove annual food facility surcharge fees; amending the Public Works Code to include a definition for compact mobile food operations and to expand the Department of Public Works' street vending authority to include regulation of compact mobile food operations, and require that Department to consult with the Department of Public Health and Fire Department when issuing rules and regulations that regulate street vendors.

Existing Law

Article 8 of the Health Code defines various types of food preparation and service establishments, including Mobile Food Facilities, Commissaries, and Catering operations. But the current law does not include definitions for Compact Mobile Food Operations (CMFOs), Mobile Support Units, or Permitted Auxiliary Conveyances. The Public Works Code regulates mobile food vendors but does not currently define or authorize regulation of CMFOs, nor does it require interdepartmental consultation when issuing rules for street vending.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance updates the Health Code by adding new definitions for CMFOs, Mobile Support Units, and Permitted Auxiliary Conveyances, and by categorizing CMFOs into low-, moderate-, and high-risk tiers based on the type of food sold and the level of food preparation involved.

It creates a new Class R for CMFOs, with annual license fees set at \$188 for low-risk operations (R-1), \$377 for moderate-risk (R-2), \$502 for high-risk (R-3), and \$188 for permitted auxiliary conveyances (R-4). The ordinance also increases annual license fees for Mobile Food Facilities (Class H) by consolidating five existing categories into two. The fee for MFF 1 would increase from \$195 to \$893, and the fee for MFF 2 would increase from \$292 to \$893. A new \$781 fee is introduced for Mobile Support Units.

In the Public Works Code, the ordinance adds a definition for CMFOs, expands the Department of Public Works' authority to regulate them, and requires the Department to consult with the Department of Public Health and the Fire Department when issuing rules and regulations for street vendors.

Background Information

The California Legislature amended the California Retail Food Code to formally recognize CMFOs as a distinct category of food facility. These changes were intended to support small-scale food vendors by creating a more accessible and tiered regulatory framework. This ordinance brings San Francisco's local codes into alignment with those state-level changes. This ordinance also modernizes and clarifies definitions and fee structures across the Health Code and Business and Tax Regulations Code. The ordinance is designed to support public health, economic opportunity, and regulatory clarity for vendors and enforcement agencies alike.