

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Various Codes - Environmental Health Permit, Fee, and Penalties Revisions]

Ordinance amending the Business and Tax Regulations Code, Health Code, Administrative Code, and Public Works Code to: 1) eliminate Department of Public Health permit requirement for veterinary hospitals and laundry facilities; 2) eliminate the food facility surcharge and certain fees for agricultural inspections; 3) establish fees for regulatory compliance activities for solid waste facilities, refuse service for commercial and residential properties, and licensing of refuse collectors; 4) establish regulatory fee for food safety classes and food safety examinations; 5) increase existing regulatory fees for agricultural inspections, certified farmers' market permits, and hazardous waste management; and 6) increase penalties for violations of tobacco sales ordinances by tobacco retailers.

Existing Law

The Department of Public Health ("DPH"), through the Environmental Health Branch, is responsible under various local codes and state laws for regulating certain business activity to protect the public health. Currently, various provisions of the municipal code authorize DPH to establish permits for regulated businesses and activities, impose permit and license fees to recover administrative costs, and address non-compliance with applicable standards by imposing specified penalties.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would change local licensing/permitting requirements administered by DPH by:

- eliminating permit requirements for veterinary hospitals and laundry facilities;
- eliminating the food facilities surcharge and salad product inspection and imported vegetable fee;
- establishing new fees for licensing and permitting of refuse collectors and solid waste facilities,
- establishing new fees for DPH-provided food safety classes and food safety examinations for food facilities;
- increasing existing local fees for inspection and certificate of agricultural products prior to shipment, farmer's market permits, and hazardous waste management; and
- increasing penalties for non-compliance with local tobacco sales ordinances.

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