

[illegible]

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 2156 LIMITING
THE COLLECTION OF FEES FOR THE FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, House Bill 2156 has been introduced in the Texas Legislature, proposing to limit the ability of municipalities, counties, and health districts to collect fees for food safety programs by capping them at the State's fee structure; and

WHEREAS, this limitation would significantly impact Fort Bend County's revenue to support its Food Safety Program, with an estimated revenue loss exceeding \$250,000; and

WHEREAS, the loss of revenue would create an unfunded mandate, forcing the County to either supplement funding from other sources or reduce essential food safety services, negatively impacting public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, unlike cities in Texas that are allowed to charge significantly higher fees than counties (typically two to four times greater), the State's fee structure does not account for additional costs incurred by counties, such as fees for plan reviews, variances, and missed appointments, which are necessary for effective food safety regulation

WHEREAS, Texas counties are already bound by Section 437.012 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, which ensures that a County cannot collect fees beyond the actual costs of administering the Food Safety Program, thereby preventing any excess revenue from being diverted to non-food-related expenses; and

WHEREAS, the bill as filed, would financially impact Fort Bend County's Food Safety Program with a potential reduction of 46.9% in revenue based on 2024 financials;


WHEREAS, eliminating this mandate for Texas counties would allow Fort Bend County to continue operating under existing regulations without the detrimental effects of this proposed legislation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court:


OPPOSES HOUSE BILL 2156 IN IT'S CURRENT FORM AND OPPOSES ANY LEGISLATION THAT WOULD DIMINISH FUNDING FOR THE FORT BEND COUNTY FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM AND THEREBY JEOPARDIZE THE OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM FOR FORT BEND COUNTY RESIDENTS.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to members of the Texas Legislature representing Fort Bend County, as well as other relevant state officials, to express the county's opposition to House Bill 2156.

PASSED AND APPROVED, this the 25 day of march, 2025.



KP George, County Judge



Vincent Morales, Commissioner Precinct 1



Grady Prestage, Commissioner Precinct 2



Andy Meyers, Commissioner Precinct 3



Dexter L. McCoy, Commissioner Precinct 4

Attest:



Laura Richard, County Clerk

(SEAL)

