
Legislative Review: BOS File #240406 – Annual Retail Food Special Event Permit
Sponsor: Mayor
Date Introduced: 4/23/24
Scheduled for BOS Committee: Budget and Finance Committee

Legislative Overview: This legislation creates a new annual permit for special event food vendors, known as Temporary Food Facilities, which allows them to apply for a single permit to cover multiple events throughout the year.

Amendments to Current Law

Currently, a special event food vendor (Temporary Food Facility) needs to apply for a permit and pay an application fee every time they participate in a special event. This legislation creates a new permit for vendors who participate in multiple special events throughout the year, with one application and permit fee.

Background, Issues, and Considerations

For vendors who participate in many events throughout the year, submitting multiple applications can be tedious and costly. An annual permit will reduce paperwork and save vendors money. Additionally, the new annual permit will make permitting and inspection operations more efficient for the Department of Public Health (DPH).

- With the new annual food permit, if a low-hazard Temporary Food Facility vendor (limited food preparation) plans to sell at more than six events a year, they'll be saving money by getting an annual permit.
- With the new annual food permit, if a high-hazard Temporary Food Facility vendor (extensive food preparation) vendor plans to sell at more than four events a year, they'll be saving money by getting an annual permit.

Who benefits from or will be burdened by your proposal (geographically, ethnically, linguistically)?
What are your strategies for advancing racial equity or mitigating unintended consequences?

- This legislation benefits special event food vendors, many of whom are at the early stages of business development.

What was the development process of this proposal? Whose input have you sought out? What feedback did you hear and did you incorporate it into this proposal? If not, why not?

- This legislation takes into account numerous requests from special event food vendors and organizers who feel the current permit process is overly burdensome. The Department of Public Health met with other counties who operate similar annual permits to learn best practices.

Is this proposal punitive or enforcement based? What are the other alternatives for proactive compliance? This proposal is not punitive.

Given the diversity of San Francisco, how would this policy play out in different cultural settings? How does it accommodate cultural norms?

- Food vendors represent a wide range of cultures and often get their start at community-based events before considering opening a brick-and-mortar location. Cultural events, such as street fairs, showcase the richness in cultural diversity among the small business community.