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69th Legislature 2025 Drafter: Matthew Weaver, HB0853.002.002

1	HOUSE BILL NO. 853		
2	INTRODUCED BY G. NIKOLAKAKOS, J. KASSMIER		
3			
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING LICENSED ESTABLISHMENT FEES;		
5	INCREASING RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENT FEES, WHOLESALE FOOD ESTABLISHMENT FEES,		
6	PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION FEES, TRAILER COURT AND CAMPGROUND FEES, AND POOL AND SPA		
7	FEES; ADDING SEASONAL AND YEAR-ROUND CATEGORIES; REQUIRING FUNDS FROM THE LOCAL		
8	BOARD INSPECTION FUND ACCOUNT TO BE USED ONLY FOR INSPECTIONS; PROVIDING		
9	DEFINITIONS; AND AMENDING SECTIONS <u>50-2-108</u> , 50-50-102, 50-50-201, 50-50-205, 50-51-204, 50-52-		
10	202, 50-53-102, 50-53-203, AND 50-57-205, MCA."		
11			
12	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:		
13			
14	Section 1. Section 50-2-108, MCA, is amended to read:		
15	"50-2-108. Financing of local boards inspection fund. (1) Local boards are financed by general		
16	fund appropriations, special levy appropriations, state and federal funds available, and contributions from		
17	school boards and other official and nonofficial agencies.		
18	(2) There is within the state special revenue fund a local board inspection fund account. The		
19	money from the account may be used only for the purpose of inspections.		
20	(3) General funds may not be used for inspections conducted pursuant to Title 50, chapters 50		
21	through 53 and 57."		
22			
23	Section 2. Section 50-50-102, MCA, is amended to read:		
24	"50-50-102. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the following		
25	definitions apply:		
26	(1) "Consumer" means a person who is a member of the public, takes possession of food, and		
27	does not offer the food for resale.		



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1	(b)	(i) A temporary food establishment described in 50-50-120(2)(a) shall obtain a permit and pay a			
2	permit fee to th	e local regulatory authority in the county where the temporary food establishment is operated.			
3	(ii)	For a temporary food establishment described under 50-50-102 (22) (b) in 50-50-102(25)(b),			
4	each time a ter	mporary food establishment alters its menu substantially by food type and means of production, a			
5	separate permit must be obtained and a separate permit fee paid.				
6	(2)	A separate license is required for each retail food establishment, but if more than one type of			
7	retail food establishment is operated on the same premises and under the same management, only one license				
8	is required.				
9	(3)	Only one retail food establishment license is required for a person owning and operating one or			
10	more vending machines.				
11	(4)	(a) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b), a retail food establishment license issued by the			
12	department is not valid unless signed in accordance with 50-50-214.				
13	(b)	A temporary food establishment permit must be signed by the local health officer or the health			
14	officer's designee to be valid.				
15	(5)	A tribal government may pursue an agreement with the department pursuant to the authority			
16	provided in 50-1-106 to coordinate the licensing of a mobile retail-food establishment subject to tribal				
17	regulations. Th	e agreement must include an appeals process if the license is not validated.			
18	(6)	If there is not a cooperative agreement pursuant to subsection (5), the department may issue a			
19	license to a person operating a mobile retail food establishment."				

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Section 4. Section 50-50-205, MCA, is amended to read:

"50-50-205. License fee -- late fee -- preemption of local authority -- exception. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (6) or (7), the department shall collect for each license issued or renewed a fee as provided in subsection (1)(b). Of the fees collected under this section, 90%-95% must be deposited into the local board inspection fund account created in 50-2-108, 5% into the general fund, and 5% into the account provided for in 50-50-216.

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(b) License fees are:



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1	(i)	\$85 \$150 for each license issued to a small retail food establishment as defined in 50-50-102;				
2	that does not have more than two employees working at any one time; and					
3	<u>(ii)</u>	\$225 for a medium retail food establishment as defined in 50-50-102;				
4	(ii) (iii)	\$115 \$275 for for a large retail food establishment as defined in 50-50-102 establishments				
5	other than those referred to in subsection (1)(b)(i); and					
6	<u>(IV)</u>	\$150 FOR A SMALL MOBILE FOOD ESTABLISHMENT AS DEFINED IN 50-50-102; AND				
7	<u>(i∨)(</u> ∨)	\$225 for a LARGE mobile food establishment as defined in 50-50-102.				
8	(2)	(a) In addition to the license fee required under subsection (1), the department shall collect a				
9	late fee of \$25 from any licensee who has failed to submit a license renewal fee prior to the expiration of the					
10	licensee's current license and who operates a retail food establishment governed by this part in the next					
11	licensing year.					
12	(b)	The late fee must be deposited in the account provided for in 50-50-216.				
13	(3)	A county or other local government may not impose an inspection fee or charge in addition to				
14	the fee provide	d for in subsection (1) unless a violation of this chapter or rule persists and is not corrected afte				
15	two inspections of the retail food establishment.					
16	(4)	The fees in subsections (1) and (2) may be paid by credit card and may be discounted for				
17	payment processing charges paid by the department to a third party. However, the discounting of license fees					
18	may not reduce the fees paid into the local board inspection fund account established in 50-2-108.					
19	(5)	The department shall collect a fee as provided in rule for each mobile food establishment plan				
20	submitted to the department for review.					
21	(6)	(a) A local health authority shall collect a fee, as provided in subsection (6)(b), for a permit				
22	issued for a temporary food establishment required to register under 50-50-120.					
23	(b)	A fee charged to a temporary food establishment may not exceed the amount charged to a				
24	retail food establishment as provided in subsection (1).					
25	(c)	The local regulatory authority shall use the revenue from the fee collected under this				
26	subsection (6)	to defray costs associated with issuing a temporary food establishment permit and the costs of				



inspections required under this chapter.

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1	(7)	A fee	may not be charged to a person who sells or serves whole shell eggs at a farmer's
2	market if the whole shell eggs are clean, free of cracks, and stored in clean cartons that are labeled in			
3	accordance with department rules and kept at a temperature established by the department by rule."			
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5	\$	Section	5 . Se	ection 50-51-204, MCA, is amended to read:
6	"	50-51-2	204.	License fee late fee. (1) (a) The department shall collect fees for each license required
7	under 50-51-201 or for each annual license renewal as provided in subsection (1)(b). The department shall			
8	deposit 8	8 5% 96.:	25%	of the fees collected under this section into the local board inspection fund account
9	created in 50-2-108, 11.25% of the fees into the general fund, and 3.75% of the fees into the account provided			
10	for in 50-	51-110.		
11	(b)	Initial	and renewal license fees are:
12	(i)	\$40 <u>\$</u>	100 annually for an establishment with no more than 10 rooms available for rental;
13	(ii)	\$80 <u>\$</u>	175 annually for an establishment with more than 10 but not more than 25 rooms
14	available for rental; and			
15	(iii)	\$160	\$250 annually for an establishment with more than 25 rooms available for rental.
16	(2)	(a) In	addition to the license renewal fee required under subsection (1), the department shall
17	collect a late fee of \$25 from any licensee who has failed to submit a license renewal fee prior to the expiration			
18	of the licensee's current license and who operates an establishment governed by this part in the next licensing			
19	year.			
20	(b)	The la	ate fee must be deposited in the account provided for in 50-51-110."
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22	Section 6. Section 50-52-202, MCA, is amended to read:			ection 50-52-202, MCA, is amended to read:
23	"	50-52-2	202.	License fee late fee. (1) (a) Each application for a new license required under 50-52-
24	103 or a license renewal must be accompanied by a fee as provided in subsection (1)(b).			
25	(b)	Licen	se fees are:
26	(i) :	\$40	80 annually for a campground or trailer court with no more than 10 spaces available for
27	rental;			



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1	(ii)	\$60 \$150 annually for a campground or trailer court with more than 10 but not more than 25
2	spaces available	e for rental; and

- 3 (iii) \$120 \$225 annually for a campground or trailer court with more than 25 spaces available for 4 rental.
 - (2) Of the fees collected under subsection (1), the department shall deposit 85%-96.25% into the local board inspection fund account created in 50-2-108, 11.25% into the general fund, and 3.75% into the account provided for in 50-52-210.
 - (3) (a) In addition to the license renewal fee required under subsection (1), the department shall collect a late fee of \$25 from any licensee who has failed to submit a license renewal fee prior to the expiration of the licensee's current license and who operates an establishment governed by this part in the next licensing year.
- 12 (b) The late fee must be deposited in the account provided for in 50-52-210."
- **Section 7.** Section 50-53-102, MCA, is amended to read:
- "50-53-102. Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the
 following definitions apply:
- 17 (1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-18 2201.
- 19 (2) "Lazy river" means a constructed watercourse through which people travel by use of flotation devices.
- 21 (3) "Local board of health" or "board" means a local board as defined in 50-1-101.
- 22 (4) "Local health officer" or "officer" means a local health officer as defined in 50-1-101.
- 23 (5) "Person" means a person, firm, partnership, corporation, or organization or the state or any political subdivision of the state.
- 25 (6) "Public bathing place" means a body of water with bathhouses and related appurtenances 26 operated for the public.
- 27 (7) (a) "Public swimming pool" means an artificial pool and related appurtenances for swimming,



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the expiration date provided in 50-53-204 and who operates the public swimming pool or public bathing place in the license year for which a renewal fee was not paid shall, upon renewal, pay to the department a late renewal fee of \$25 for each calendar month after the renewal due date in addition to the renewal fee required by subsection (1). Payment of the late renewal fee does not relieve the operator of responsibility for any operation without a license.

- (3) If the local board of health conducts its own inspections and enforcement activities for the public swimming pools and public bathing places within its jurisdiction:
- (a) the department shall deposit 85% of the fees collected under subsection (1) in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the local board inspection fund account created by 50-2-108. Money deposited in the local board inspection fund account is subject to appropriation by the legislature for the purposes of 50-53-218.
- (b) the department shall deposit 15% of the fees collected under subsection (1) and all the fees collected under subsection (2) in an account in the state special revenue fund to be appropriated by the legislature to the department for the enforcement of part 1 and this part.
- (4) If the local board of health has delegated its inspection and enforcement activities for public swimming pools and public bathing places to the department, the department shall deposit all of the fees collected under subsections (1) and (2) in an account in the state special revenue fund to be appropriated by the legislature to the department for the enforcement of part 1 and this part."

Section 9. Section 50-57-205, MCA, is amended to read:

- "50-57-205. License fee -- late renewal fee -- allocation of fees. (1) For each annual license issued or renewed, the department shall collect a fee of \$115_\$225.
- (2) A person operating an establishment who fails to renew a license by the expiration date provided in 50-57-206 and who operates the establishment in the license year for which an annual renewal fee was not paid shall, upon renewal, pay to the department a late renewal fee of \$25 in addition to the annual renewal fee required by subsection (1). Payment of the late renewal fee does not relieve the operator of responsibility for operating without a license.



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1 (3) The department shall deposit the annual fees collected under subsection (1) as follows:

2 (a) 90%-95% into the state special revenue fund to the credit of the local board inspection fund

account, created in 50-2-108; and

(b) 5% into the general fund; and

(c)(b) 5% into the account created in 50-57-213 in the state special revenue fund.

(4) The department shall deposit all of the fees collected under subsection (2) into the account

created by 50-57-213 in the state special revenue fund."

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