

FOOD SERVICE INSPECTION FEES

It is the intent of the Montana Association of Counties to support legislative efforts to increase public health inspection fees and to encourage the examination of establishing fees through a local, public rule-making process.

WHEREAS, food-borne illness kills over 5,000 people each year and is cause for the hospitalization of over 350,000. The public health inspections of food establishments is a vital component to reducing death and illness related to food-borne disease; and

WHEREAS, Montana's counties are critical partners in the state mandate to inspect such establishments; and

WHEREAS, licensing fees cover a small fraction of the costs of inspection; and

WHEREAS, the remaining costs are borne either by local property taxpayers or by decreasing other important local public health services; and,

WHEREAS, the current method of establishing such fees in statute is ineffective and inefficient.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montana Association of Counties support efforts to increase the fees so as to reduce the property tax subsidy of the inspections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montana Association of Counties support efforts to examine the feasibility and practicality of establishing fees through a state or local rule-making process that more fairly and accurately reflect the actual cost of performing inspections.

SPONSOR:	DISTRICTS 10 & 11
RECOMMENDATION:	Do Pass
PRIORITY:	High
REFERRED TO:	Health & Human Services Committee
ADOPTED:	Annual Conference, Hamilton, MT September 24, 2008