

## CHAPTER 297

(House Bill 159)

## AN ACT concerning

## Food Establishments - Regulation

FOR the purpose of providing for the licensing and regulation of food establishments; repealing certain existing duplicative or obsolete provisions of the law regarding the sale of butter and margarine, wheat flour, adulterated candy or lozenges, the sale of ice, the sale of bottled drinking water, posting lifesaving charts in restaurants, the sale of tomatoes, tomato juice and vinegar, coffee with chicory, and products containing methyl and denatured alcohol, the licensing and regulation of soft drinks, cold storage and cold storage warehouses, canneries, frozen food processing plants, crab meat and crab meat plants, shellfish and other miscellaneous food and food establishment provisions; creating a new subtitle "Subtitle 3. Food Establishment"; defining certain terms; specifying certain food products not regulated by this Act; providing the purpose of this Act; requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to adopt rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act; allowing certain political subdivisions to adopt certain laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations; requiring that a person who operates a food establishment must be licensed by the Department; providing certain exceptions to certain requirements for excluded organizations, and requiring the Department to set certain separate standards for those groups; providing that under certain circumstances a license issued by a certain political subdivision constitutes the license required under this Act; establishing license requirements; providing for a license fee and authorizing the Department and local health departments to assess, collect, and provide for exemptions from certain fees; providing that the Department may suspend, revoke, or modify a food establishment license under certain circumstances; providing for renewal of a license; allowing for the inspection of any food establishment; providing for notice, orders, hearings, and other methods of enforcing this Act; requiring that certain plans and specifications be submitted to and approved by the Department or appropriate county health department before a food establishment is constructed, altered, or remodeled; allowing the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Department of Agriculture to inspect certain foods for wholesomeness; providing an exemption from their this Act for certain group homes; providing that certain structures