



TO: SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH **DATE:** June 26, 2025

RE: *Fee Increase for Food Handler Safety Training Cards and Certified Food Safety Manager Cards*

PETITION # 34-25

That the Southern Nevada District Board of Health *approve a graduated increase in the fees payable to receive a Food Handler Safety Training Card or a Certified Food Safety Card from the current \$20 price to \$25 in calendar year 2026 and then to \$30 in calendar year 2027.*

PETITIONERS:

Cassius Lockett, PhD, District Health Officer *CL*
Kim Saner, Deputy District Health Officer, Administration *KS*
Cory Burgess, Health Cards Supervisor *CB*

DISCUSSION:

People working in a food handling capacity in Clark County are required by Southern Nevada Health District's Food Regulations to possess either a Food Handler Safety Training Card or have food protection manager certification (for which we offer a Certified Food Safety Manager Card). Both cards currently have a fee of \$20 payable upon passing the required food safety testing. More than 100,000 cards are issued annually.

To cover increasing personnel and materials costs to issue these cards, we are proposing a total increase from the current \$20 fee to \$30 through \$5 annual increases. Beginning January 1, 2026, the card fee would increase to \$25. Beginning January 1, 2027, the card fee would increase to \$30. Fees for retests and replacement cards would not increase.

If approved, this would be the first fee increase since October 1999. At that time, a hepatitis A vaccine became a requirement to obtain a food handler card, and the card fee increased from \$10 to \$50. The fee was reduced to \$40 in July 2012 and further reduced to \$20 in July 2018 as the testing process evolved.

FUNDING:

None.



▶ Food Handler Safety Training Card

FEE INCREASE PROPOSAL

Clark County Health District launched its food handler safety program in November 1963.

At that time, Clark County Ordinance 186 established a requirement for a food handler program. A traveling “medicine show” moved from hotel to hotel providing a two-hour program of film, lectures and demonstrations to educate food handlers on the importance of food safety.

Ordinance 186 was later revised to subject food handlers to an examination by the Health District.

After September 1, 1977, no person may be employed as a food handler in Clark County unless that person within the previous two years has submitted to an examination and such other health instructions as may be prescribed by the Clark County district board of health.

The food handler card process has evolved with prices decreasing in the last 25 years.

▶ Pre-1999 \$5–10

Clients watched a one-hour food safety film at an SNHD location.

In the 1990s, the card cost \$10.

Cards were valid for two years.

▶ 1999–2012 \$50

Clients watched a one-hour food safety film and received a hepatitis A vaccine at an SNHD location.

The fee increased to \$50, and cards became valid for three years.

▶ 2012–2018 \$40

Clients paid \$20 to Vegas PBS for online training and unproctored testing.

After passing, clients paid \$20 to SNHD for the card.

A vaccine was no longer required.

▶ 2018–2025 \$20

Clients take and pass a proctored, multiple-choice test at an SNHD location or renew online.

Clients pay \$20 for the card.

The time is right for a price increase.

- **No increase in 25 years** — The client's total cost for a Food Handler Safety Training Card or Certified Food Safety Manager Card has remained at an affordable \$20 for seven years. Each change in price between October 1999 and July 2018 was a decrease.
- **Business costs are rising** — Between FY2019 and FY2024, total Health Cards department expenses increased by 28 percent. These expenses include card printing supplies and equipment, cashiering software fees, payment processing fees, general office supplies, cost allocations and payroll.

We are proposing a graduated fee increase across calendar years 2026 and 2027.

► 2025 Estimates

\$20	New Cards
\$20	Renewed Cards
\$20	Duplicate Cards
\$15	Late Fee
\$5	Retest Fee

Projected Revenue	\$2,726,375
Projected Expenses	\$2,842,711

PROJECTED LOSS	\$111,336
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► 2026 Projection

\$25	New Cards
\$25	Renewed Cards
\$20	Duplicate Cards
\$15	Late Fee
\$5	Retest Fee

Projected Revenue	\$3,283,875
Projected Expenses	\$3,137,608

PROJECTED PROFIT	\$146,267
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► 2027 Projection

\$30	New Cards
\$30	Renewed Cards
\$20	Duplicate Cards
\$15	Late Fee
\$5	Retest Fee

Projected Revenue	\$3,841,375
Projected Expenses	\$3,238,023

PROJECTED PROFIT	\$603,352
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Revenue changes calculated on 111,500 new and renewed Food Handler Safety Training Cards and Certified Food Safety Manager Cards at the proposed rates.

As compared to other work cards...

▶ **Food Handler**
\$20

Valid for 3 years
Issued by SNHD

▶ **Body Art Card**
\$25

Valid for 2 years
Issued by SNHD

▶ **Sheriff's Card**
\$64 + \$39 background check

Valid for 5 years
Issued by LVMPD

▶ **Alcohol Card**
\$15–35

Valid for 4 years
Issued by TAM Nevada, et al

▶ **Gaming Card**
\$45 + fingerprinting fees

Valid for 5 years
Issued by Gaming Control Board

How can we implement the changes?

1. Once approved by the Board of Health, we will spend the coming months sending notification to the following:
 - SNHD Environmental Health Food Operations leadership and inspectors
 - Food industry workers by email, web, social media, a news release, quarterly Food Safety Partnership Meetings, through our inspectors and more
 - The 90+ agencies and organizations that issue payment vouchers
 - Other stakeholders
2. On launch date, update all systems and materials with new fees.



- ▶ **Cory Burgess**
Health Cards Supervisor
702-759-1065
burgess@snhd.org