

Mobile Food Vendors- Updates

HB 2844 Implementation Materials

Mobile Food Vendors - **Important State Law Changes Effective July 1, 2026**

House Bill 2844 (89th Texas Legislature) establishes a statewide, uniform regulatory framework for mobile food vendors in Texas. The legislation creates a new occupational licensing program administered by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and is intended to standardize regulation, reduce local inconsistencies, and support small food-based businesses.

The updates take effect July 1, 2026, with limited provisions effective earlier to allow for rulemaking and implementation.

What is Changing?

- Beginning July 1, 2026, mobile food vendors must hold a state-issued license from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

What Vendors Need to Do

- Monitor DSHS announcements regarding license applications and fees.
- Apply for a state mobile food vendor license prior to July 1, 2026.
- Continue to comply with ALL Tarrant County safety regulations.

Key Dates

- **May 1, 2026** - State rules adopted
- **July 1, 2026** - State license required

Beginning July 1, 2026, all Mobile Food Vendor permits and inspections will be issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Tarrant County Public Health will no longer provide these services. For more information, [please contact DSHS](#).

Frequently Asked Questions - Mobile Food Vendors

Q: What is HB 2844?

A: HB 2844 is a state law that creates a uniform licensing system for mobile food vendors across Texas, replacing local health permits with a state-issued license.

Q: When does the law take effect?

A: The law is fully effective on July 1, 2026.

Q: Will I still need a Tarrant County permit?

A: **Location Constraints:** While a Tarrant County permit is generally valid across the county, individual cities (e.g., [Mansfield](#), [North Richland Hills](#)) often require additional local permits, zoning approvals, or fire inspections.

Q: Who issues the new license?

A: The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). For more information on this process, you may visit their website: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/>;

Q: Can Tarrant County still inspect food trucks?

A: Food safety inspections will be handled by the State starting July 1, 2026. Some cities may still conduct inspections related to fire, safety, and ordinance compliance.

Q: Will this allow me to operate anywhere in Tarrant County?

A: No. State licensure does not override local zoning, parking, or location restrictions.

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: Information will be posted as rules are adopted by DSHS. Check the DSHS website regularly or contact the Tarrant County Public Health Office for additional details.

Note to Mobile Food Vendors:

Contact Info: Call 512-834-6727 or email Drugs-FoodSafety@dshs.texas.gov for questions.