
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2019

Fiscal Services Division

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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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Food and Consumer Safety Bureau – Department of Inspections and Appeals

Overview

The Food and Consumer Safety Bureau is located in the Administration Division of the Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA). The Bureau is responsible for administering and enforcing the Iowa Food Code (Iowa Code chapter 137F) by conducting food safety inspections at food establishments (grocery stores, restaurants, and convenience stores), food processing plants, school concession stands, and mobile food units (food trucks). According to the DIA, the purpose of the Iowa Food Code is to “safeguard the public health and provide to consumers, food that is safe, unadulterated and honestly prepared.” In addition to grocery stores, restaurants, and convenience stores, the Bureau deals with bed and breakfast homes and inns, farmers markets and temporary food establishments, egg handlers, and home food establishments. The Food and Consumer Safety Bureau also maintains a restaurant inspection website through which visitors can view or download inspection reports for Iowa food establishments, including restaurants, grocery stores, and convenience stores.

All food establishments in Iowa are inspected according to the Iowa Food Code. The Food Code is based on food safety recommendations developed by the federal Food and Drug Administration, in consultation with representatives from the food industry and regulators. The Food Code is derived from scientifically developed factors focusing on public health and the prevention of foodborne illness.

In recent years, trends have indicated that more and more food establishments are returning the duty of food inspections back over to the Bureau, as opposed to contracting with local county or city inspectors. Enacted in May 2016, Senate File 2314 (FY 2017 Administration and Regulation Subcommittee Appropriations Act) amended the process of collecting fees associated with food inspections by permitting the DIA to keep fee revenue collected from inspections completed by the Department for FY 2017. Fees collected on behalf of a municipal corporation are not retained by the Department. The Department is required to deposit \$800,000 of collected fees into the General Fund, and permitted to retain the remainder in its operating budget.

Funding

The Food and Consumer Safety Bureau receives an annual General Fund appropriation.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [10A](#) and [137F](#)
Iowa Administrative Code [481](#)

Budget Unit Number

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More Information

Food and Consumer Safety Bureau – Department of Inspections and Appeals:

www.dia.iowa.gov/food-consumer-safety

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