

Food Truck

OPERATIONS

SUMMARY

HB25-1295 establishes a reciprocal licensing and permitting system for food trucks operating across local government jurisdictions in Colorado. The bill aims to make it easier for food truck operators to work in multiple jurisdictions without needing to apply for new licenses and permits each time.

KEY PROVISIONS

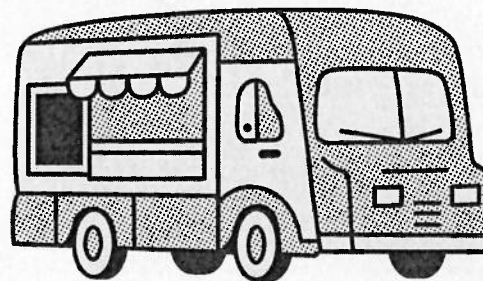
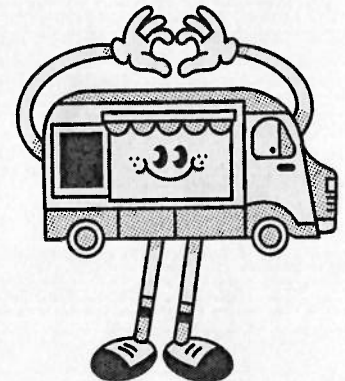
RECIPROCAL LICENSING AND PERMITTING

A local government must issue a reciprocal business license, health department permit, and fire safety permit if the food truck operator:

- Holds active business, health, and fire safety permits from another local government.
- Pays the required application, licensing, and permitting fees.

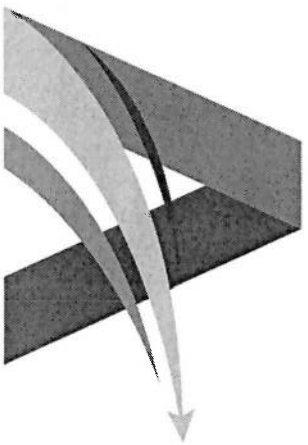
FAST-TRACK APPROVAL

- Local governments must review applications and decide within 30 calendar days.
- Reduced licensing and permitting fees are allowed for reciprocal permits.



PURPOSE

This bill streamlines food truck operations, encourages small business growth, and removes regulatory barriers across different local jurisdictions.



ADELANTE™

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

HB25-1295 Food Truck Operations Bill
Survey Results (44 Responses)
3/23/2025

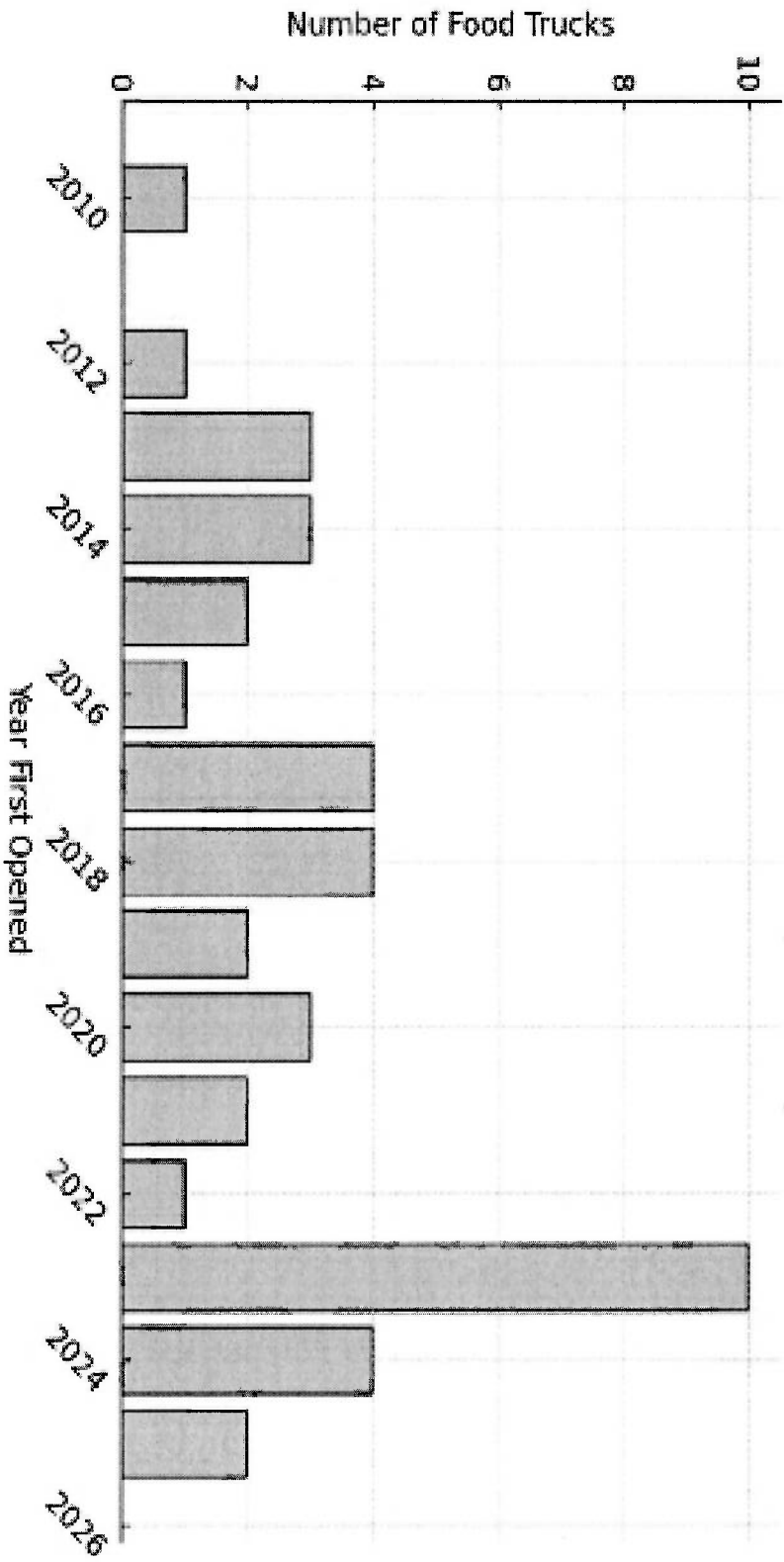
HB25-1295

The Food Truck Reciprocity Bill addresses these challenges by:

- **Streamlining the Licensing Process: Allowing food truck operators with valid business, health, and fire safety permits from one local government to obtain reciprocal licenses and permits in other jurisdictions.**
- **Reducing Red Tape: Establishing a clear 14-day timeline for local governments to review and process applications, providing operators with greater predictability and efficiency.**
- **Promoting Fair Access: Prohibiting local ordinances that unreasonably restrict food truck operations, such as limiting days of operation or requiring excessive distances from brick-and-mortar establishments.**

This legislation strikes a balance between maintaining public health and safety standards while enabling food trucks to operate more freely and efficiently throughout the state. By supporting this bill, Colorado will foster a more inclusive business environment, encourage innovation, and enhance consumer choice.

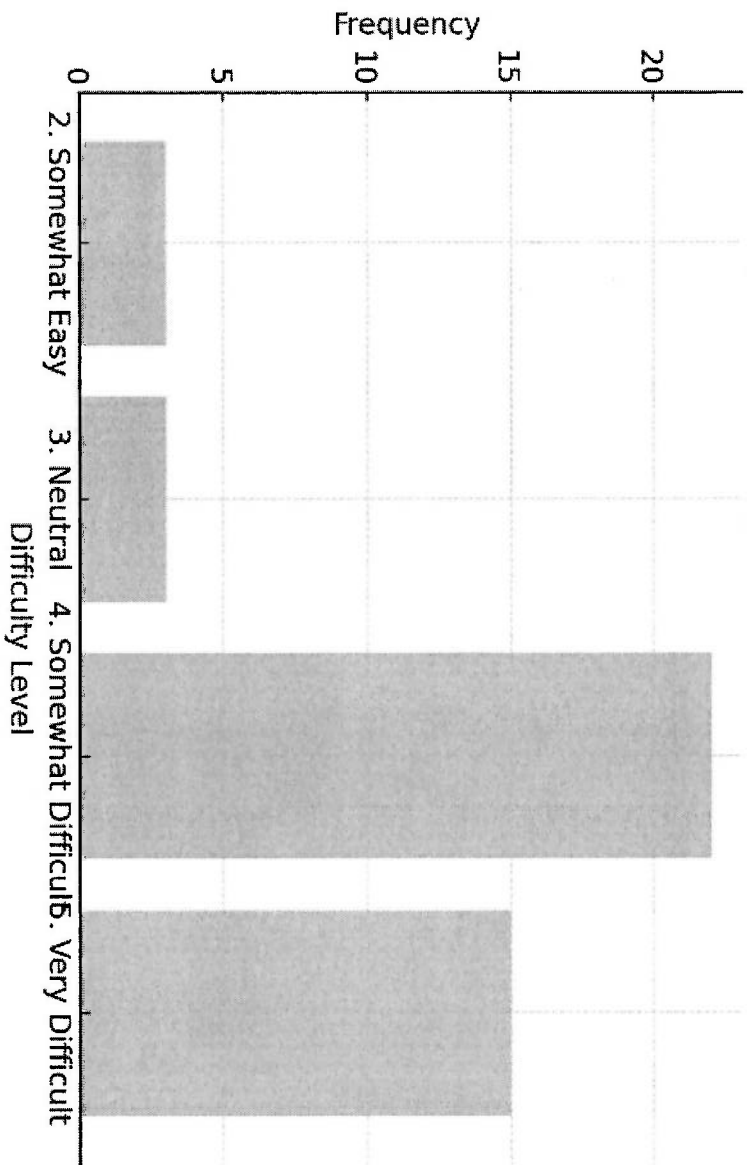
Number of Food Trucks Opened by Year



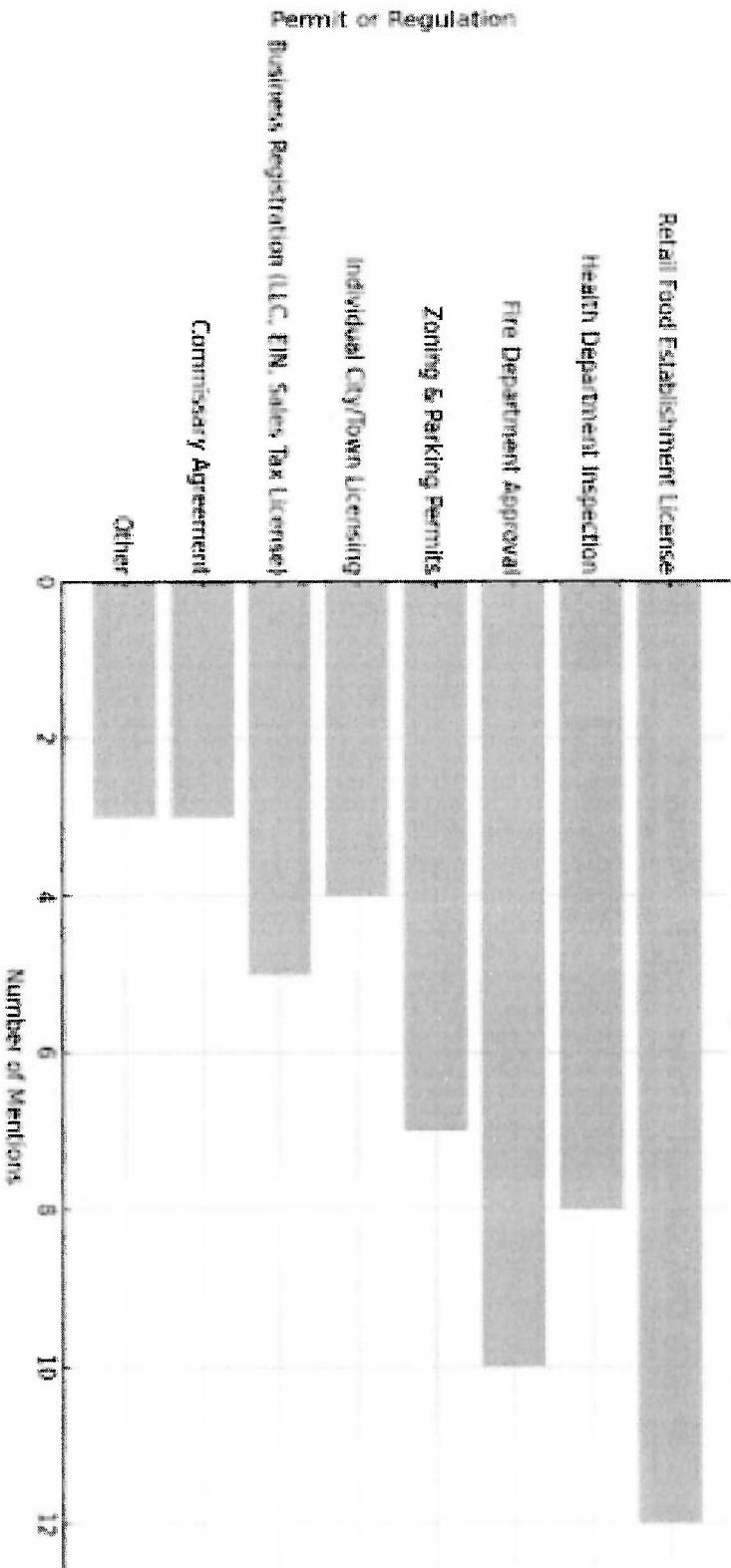
Zip Code:	Cities in which your food truck operates (please list):
80227	Lakewood, Lonetree, Fort Collins, Arvada, Granby, Aurora, Loveland, Windsor, Centennial, Littleton, Colorado Springs, Estes Park, Greeley, Golden
80238	Denver Lakewood Littleton golden Lafayette Aurora centennial Broomfield Arvada
81223	State wide.
80223	Private events / Weddings
80204	Colorado all over
80504	Berthoud, Boulder, Brighton, Broomfield, Cherry Hills, Commerce City, Dacono, Denver, Erie, Firestone, Fort Collins, Frederick, Greeley, Lafayette, Lakewood, Littleton, Longmont, Louisville, Loveland, Mead, Niwot, Northglenn, Thornton, Windsor
80015	Centennial
80525	Loveland, Fort Collins, Timnath, Wellington, Windsor, severance, Laporte, Longmont, Estes, broomfield, boulder, Westminster, Golden, Lyons, Erie, Brighton, Johnstown, Greeley, Garden City, Eaton, Pierce, Ault, Nunn
80526	Foco, Loveland, Greeley, Longmont, Denver, Littleton, federal height, Boulder, steamboat, beaver Creek, Grand Junction, Cheyenne, Larime, North Glen
80537	Fort Collins, wellington, Greeley, Erie, Firestone, dacono, windsor, loveland, Bellevue, Evans, longmont, millikan, mead, Johnstown, firestone, berthoud, thorton.
80537	Loveland, Berthoud, Fort Collins, Frederick, Mead
80524	Fort Collins, Estes, Durango, Buena Vista, Eagle
80227	Denver, Golden, Castle Rock, Fort Collins, Vail, Avon, Aspen, Lakewood, Littleton, Highlands Ranch, Aurora, Boulder, Westminster, Broomfield, Brighton and almost anywhere in CO
80917	All over Colorado
80601	Too many to list
80207	Denver, Boulder, Fort Collins, Colo springs, Aspen, ECT
80603	Greeley, Fort Lupton, Firestone, Frederick, Lochbuie, Hudson, Longmont, Fort Collins, Loveland, Johnstown.
80538	Loveland, Ft Collins, Windsor, Timnath, Berthoud, Lyons, Estes Park
80223	All of the Denver Metro except Castle Rock, Parker
80109	Denver, Aurora, Parker, Castle Rock, Golden, Centennial, Englewood, fair play, Colorado springs
80906	Colorado Springs, Golden, Fountain, pueblo
80125	Denver, Englewood, Commerce City, Castle Rock, Castle Pines, Aurora, Centennial, Lone tree, Highlands Ranch, Littleton, Lakewood
80125	Denver, HR, CR, Littleton, Aurora, Englewood, Castle Pines, Lakewood, Centennial, Commerce City, Reunion, Lone Tree, Morrison
80239	Denver, arvada, arvada Denver county Jeff co
80227	Denver, Lakewood, Littleton, golden, Aurora, centennial, Parker, castle rock, Arvada, broomfield.
80922	Colorado Springs
80204	Denver
80202	Denver, Golden, Arvada, Morrison, Lakewood (Upon Launch)
80033	Englewood, Denver, Jeffco, golden, Arvada, Edge Water, and Commerce City.
80640	Commerce City
80011	Aurora, Denver, Commerce City
80219	Denver
80017	Aurora
80229	Thornton
80013	Denver
80249	Englewood, Arvada, Aurora, Denver
80018	Aurora
80124	Denver Aurora
80538	Loveland y Fort Collins
80302	Opera 5 mesas en Boulder Pearl Street
80026	Lafayette



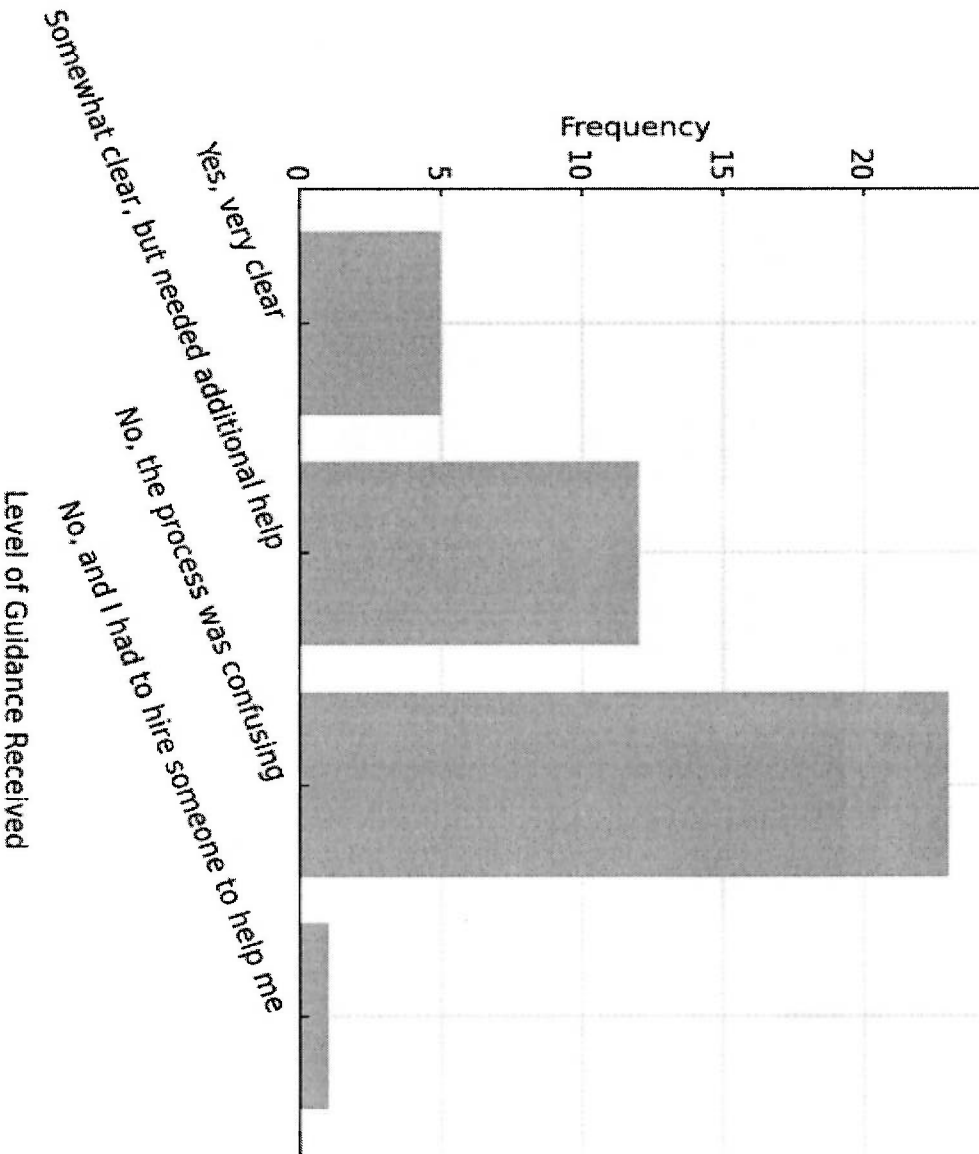
Difficulty of Obtaining Business Licenses and Permits



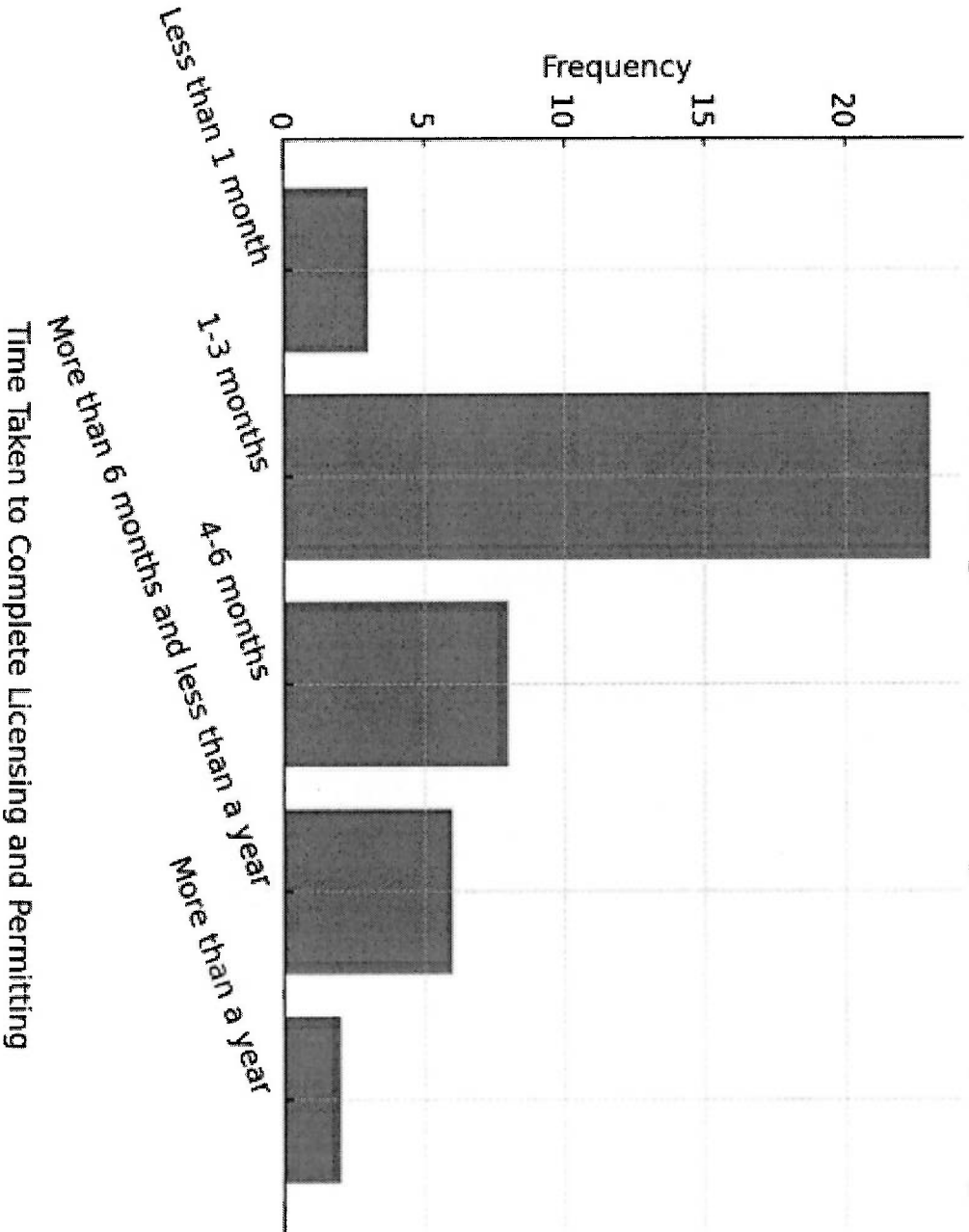
Delays in Business Openings Due to Permits and Regulations



Clarity of Licensing Guidance from City/County Officials

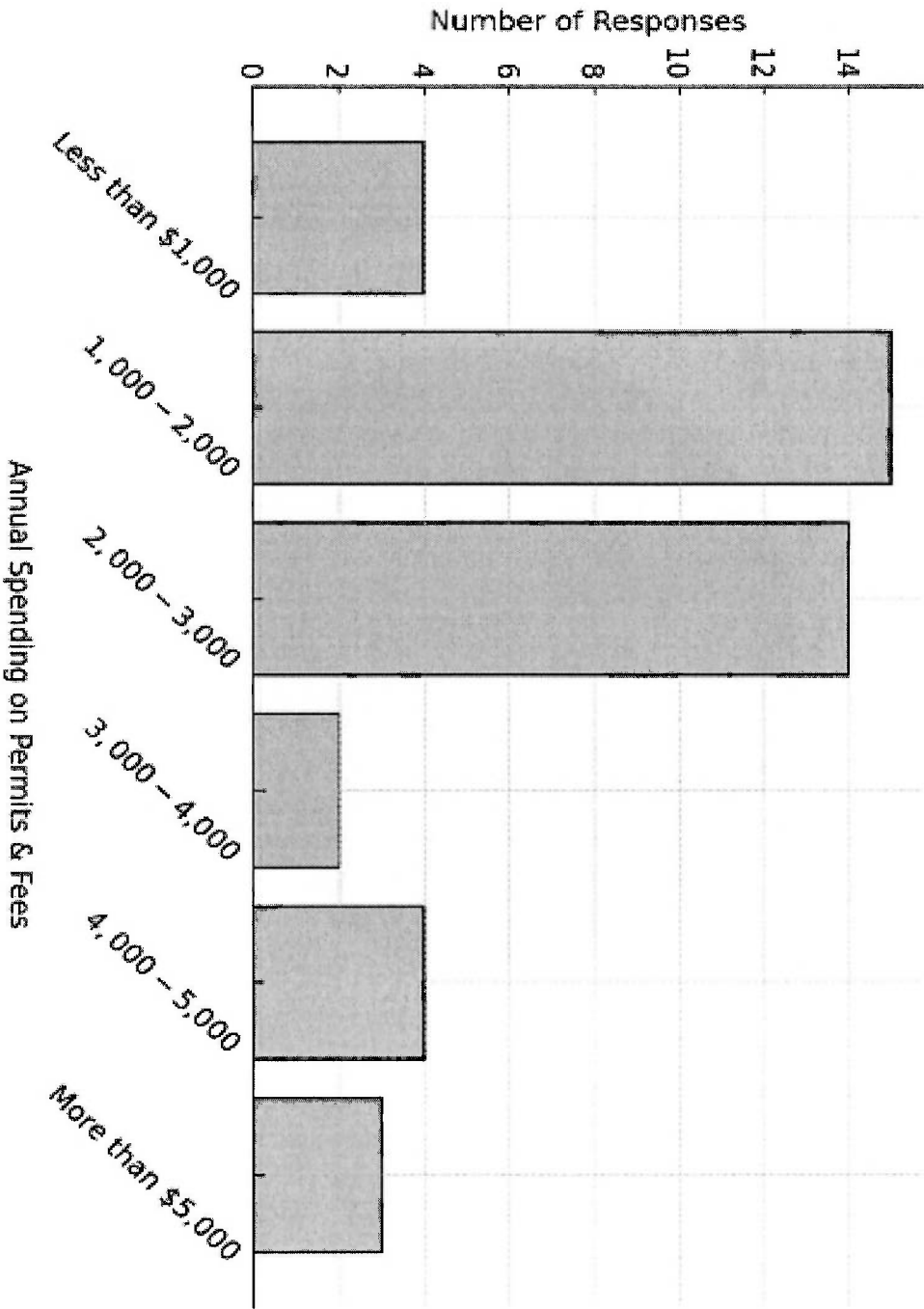


Duration of Licensing and Permitting Before Opening

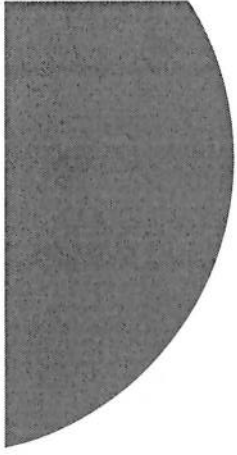
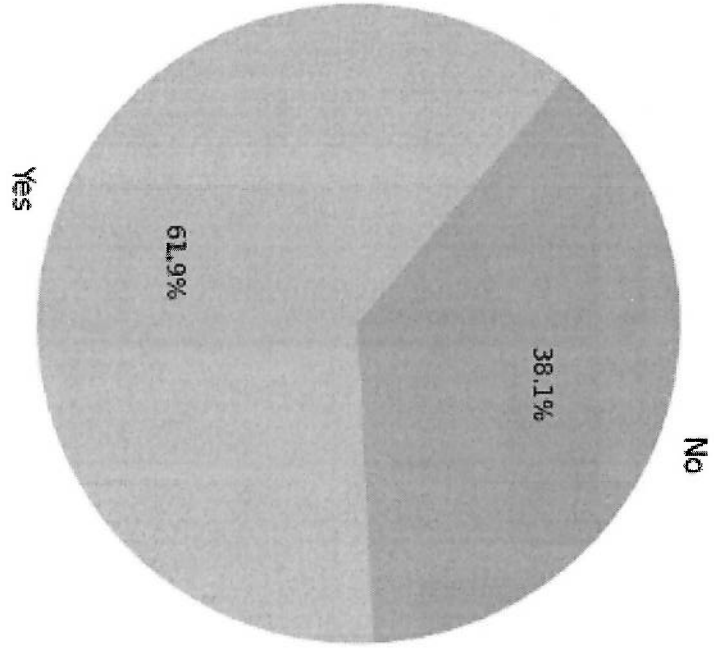


Time Taken to Complete Licensing and Permitting

Annual Spending on Permits, Fees, and Regulatory Costs



Have you ever delayed opening or expansion due to regulatory barriers?



Have you ever delayed opening or expansion due to regulatory barriers? If yes, Please explain A1A15

Lack of communication and response from health department.

Applied in Brighton for an event at a brewery scheduled 7 weeks out. At the time of the event, city of Brighton had not processed application. Went to event anyways. Was removed from brewery spot by city ordinance enforcement.

Denver is absolutely horrendous to work with and we have been pushed back opening for months at a time because of their system.

It's expensive

We only operate in Centennial because of the cost and hoops to jump through to legally operate in other cities around us: Aurora, Parker, Denver

Unable to fill out all the paperwork or get hold of the right person to understand what they need from me and then they change it every year. Who do parks and rec need everything to be notarized

I had to wait 90 days for my food truck layout and design to be approved, before I the company could start my build. This not only is comical but set my project back 3 months. It took them exactly 90 business days to approve a common food truck layout.

Fire permit changes that stopped health department license. Unable to obtain health license without fire permit. Fire Marshall failed me when I was within code with a scheduled inspection the following day.

Different agencies have their own timeline and refuse to communicate with each other causing delays even in simple renewal of licensing. For example a specific fire department which I will not name is known in the food truck community to purposely fail all inspections first time going against even their own NFPA guidelines so they can collect the extra \$100 they charge for re inspection yet at the re inspection they never verify anything and every time they make up something different but they may pass one truck then fail the other one for a different reason.

I'm one small city the fire Marshal made ridiculous improvements needed to operate in this small city even though I have imac approval from many large counties across Colorado.

There is a rumor that the fire chief or someone connected to the fire department owns a food truck and they are trying to keep other trucks out of their city.

It's criminal in my opinion.

Always waiting to hear back

It's very difficult to keep each city's requirements in mind. There should be one that covers all.

I refuse to open in Castle Rock. We operated for 7 years then a new fire chief was hired he pulled out of FMAC and changed fees that make it irresponsible to operate - only to not change any of the safety requirements.

The web site for Denver county is horrible you can not ever speak to a human. The follow up is extremely slow

?Alguna vez ha retrasado la apertura o expansion de su negocio debido a barreras regulatorias? Si es así, por favor explique

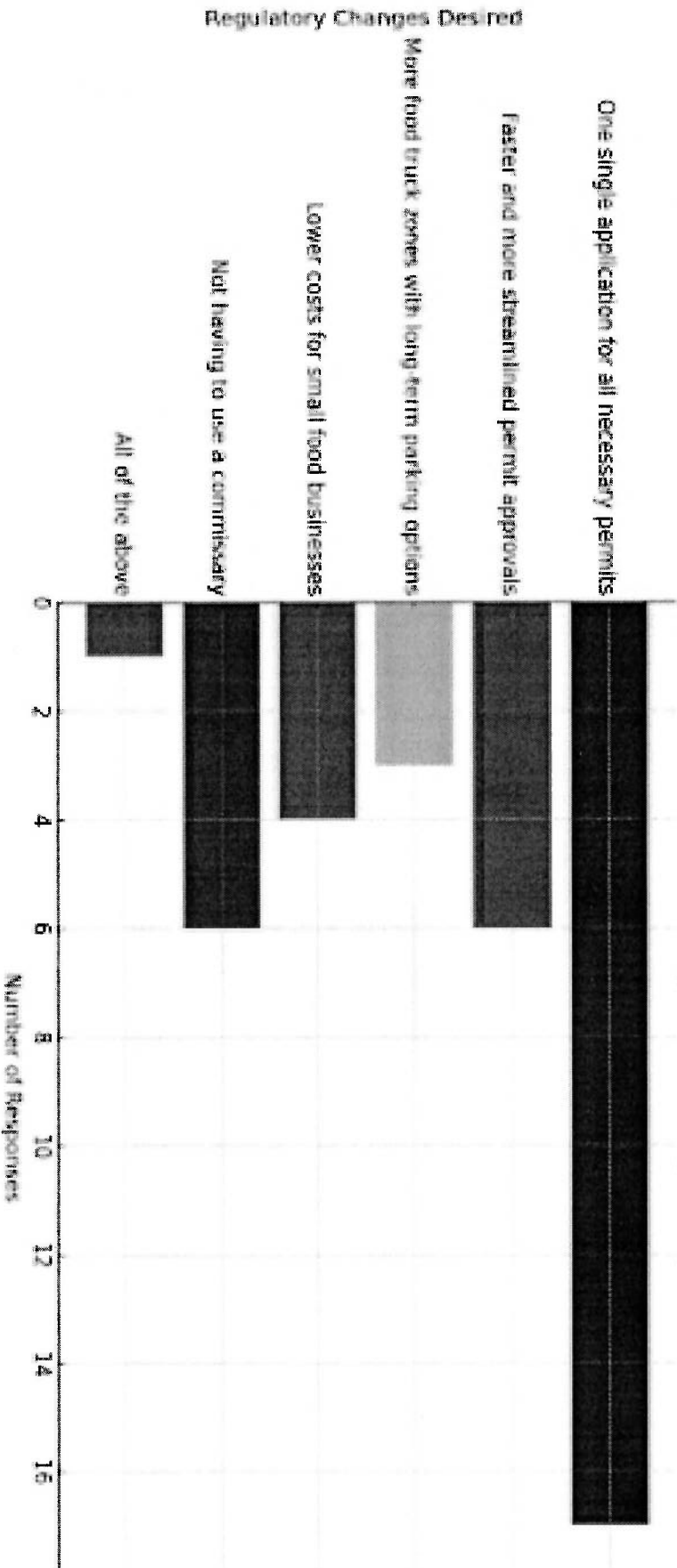
Last year I was not operating my food truck and I lost some spaces because they would not give me a permit from the fire department in Denver, it took me 8 months to find a way to do it because the city asked me to do everything online and online would not let me do it, finally I decided not to renew in Denver and I no longer do business in that city.

Yes, at this very moment we are waiting for the hood of our new facility to pass inspection.

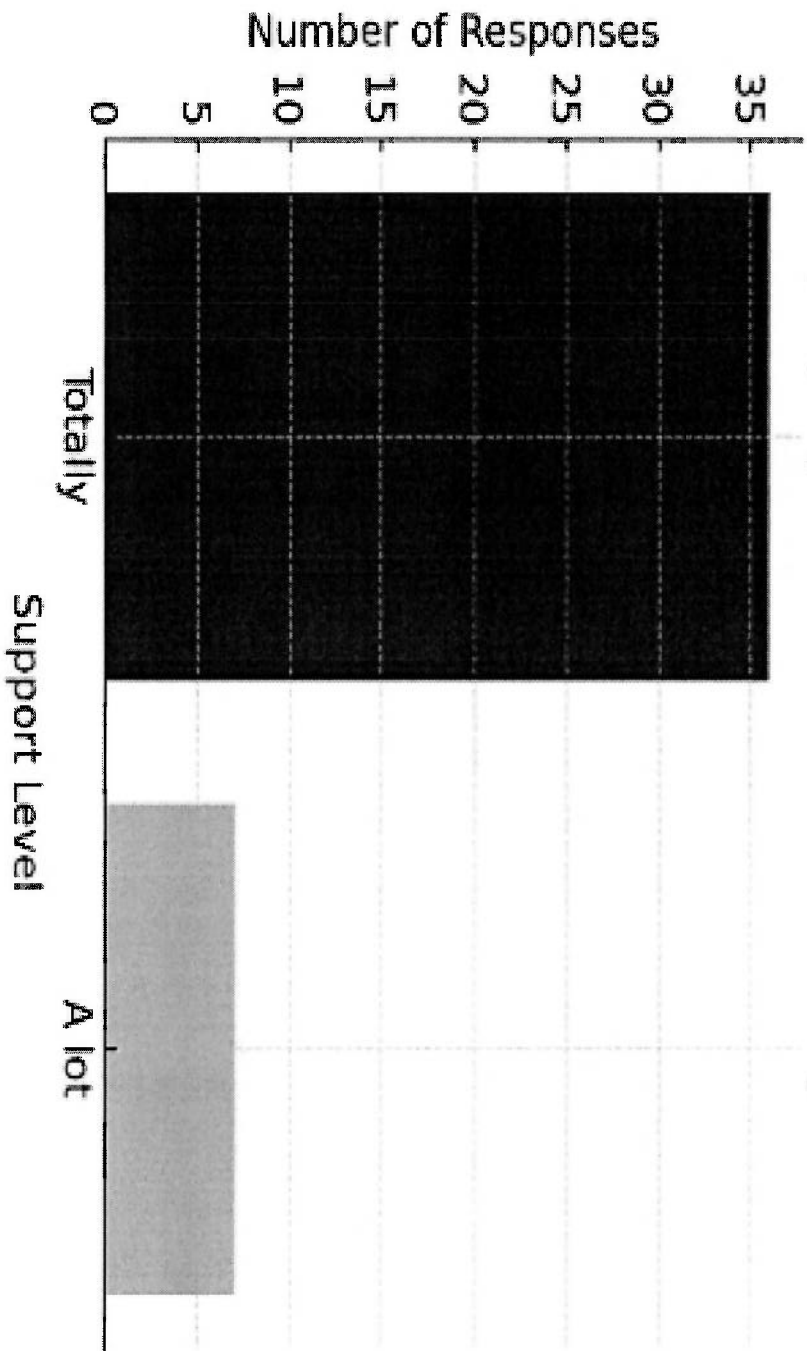
They do not accept a legalized Westminster kitchen.

The inspection

Desired Changes in the Regulatory Process



Support for Simplifying Food Truck Licensing and Reducing Fees



Something you would like to share about your story or any other suggestions:
Very hard to identify what cities or counties require separate applications.

The fire department is probably one of the worst hangups. Currently, the south metro fire district requires an inspection from a department using the fire marshal of Colorado guidelines. This does not include Denver. The more frustrating part is that the different fire departments don't charge the same. I can get a FMOC inspection from Aurora for \$0, the south metro fire district charges \$90 for the same inspection.

Also, DFD requires a propane permit. It used to cost \$50 annually, now it's \$200.

If there was a way to have one set sales tax license or sales tax rate for all locations. That would also be very helpful. It's ridiculous to have to keep track of 10+ licenses. There are multiple jurisdictions that will charge late fees on zero-files. I once had to pay the city of Arvada \$125 in filing fees. At that time, I hadn't operated on Arvada for over 6 months.

There are times that I am brought to tears over the things we have to go through and the amount of money we have to spend. I constantly ask why is this so hard. It isn't fair to be treated the way we are treated when we are simply trying to live and provide for our community. We are treated as if we are a money play for everyone and that is all. We have had to jump through so many hoops and pay such high fees for things that we have been forced to look out of state for work. We were one of the first trucks in the state before the big movement. Each and every year the process gets harder and harder. Agencies take advantage of us and fine us for things that are completely irrelevant. I could go on for days but that is just a glimpse of our lives.

I keep a spreadsheet for all the municipalities I am licensed in, and it has a column for which city/town I have to file directly with that municipality (home-rule) or fill with the State. While I feel I am very organized, I think this is a major concern for food truck operators who get overwhelmed with the sales tax requirements (when and to whom they have to file with) and then don't file as they should.

We just started our new food truck last fall after being closed for 4 years. The regulations, costs and hoops to jump through have made it extremely difficult for us to grow a new start up.

The amount of times we have booked an event and then someone has told us the day of we are missing some new permit or some new fee that we didn't pay last year

We operate all over Colorado in multiple counties. It would be nice to have 1 simple application that can handle all permitting and would be extremely convenient to have inspectors easier to get ahead of and schedule.

I think if you have been inspected and approved by a professional fire Marshal the other fire Marshals should respect the decision of their peers. Anything else is discrimination against small businesses

This is needed by every single food truck

I don't use propane and I am exempt in Denver and South Metro until I add propane to my truck. Castle Rock I need a sticker and inspected yearly and they charge me unless I can get down to their free day.

I use batteries and I am fine except in Denver and South Metro until I add propane. In Castle Rock I need to be inspected every year and pay a fee unless I am able to make it down to their free inspection day.

Algo que le gustarí a compartir sobre su historia o cualquier otra sugerencia:

I am available to advocate for this important change for us small food businesses.

Parking permits are asking for too much rent and this should be unlawful.

Due to the poor explanation of where the permits are taken and not having a guide of the steps to follow there are people who mislead in helping and charge for this service outrageously.

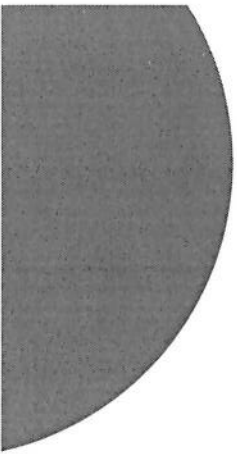
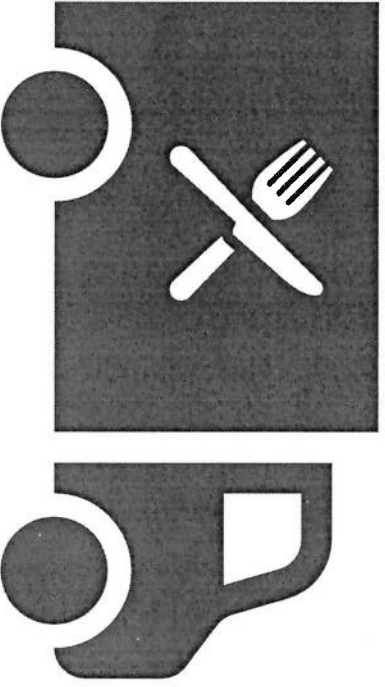
In some cities outside of Denver, such as Fort Lupton, Denver inspections are not valid for some reason, especially fire inspection. It has to be a non-Denver inspection.

More support is needed for new entrepreneurs to comply with all procedures and rules.

There should be more DIRECT personnel -NOT INTERNET-, AND THAT KNOW THE PROCEDURES IN DETAIL. BECAUSE NOT EVEN THEY KNOW WHAT TO DO AND HOW TO DO IT. IT'S ALL TWISTS AND TURNS....



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Your Support!**



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