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Senate Bill 116 (as reported without amendment)

Sponsor: Senator Sarah Anthony Committee: Regulatory Affairs

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Food Law to exempt from the Law's licensure requirements an individual operating a concession stand under the requirements of Public Act (PA) 260 of 1978, which provides for assistance to blind and visually disabled individuals.

MCL 289.4105

BRIEF RATIONALE

According to the Business Enterprise Program of the Michigan Bureau of Services for Blind Persons, the State can do more to provide individuals who are blind with opportunities for employment. Improved opportunities would benefit the blind individual and the State by supporting the individual to earn a livelihood independent of public assistance. It has been suggested that one way to assist these individuals would be to eliminate the licensure fee for blind business owners on State property.

PREVIOUS LEGISLATION

(This section does not provide a comprehensive account of previous legislative efforts on this subject matter.)

The bill is a reintroduction of Senate Bill 986 from the 2023-2024 Legislative Session. Senate Bill 986 passed the Senate and was reported by the House Committee on Local Government and Municipal Finance but received no further action.

Legislative Analyst: Nathan Leaman

FISCAL IMPACT

According to Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), it received only \$14,627 in payments from these fees, so the costs of the legislation would be minimal to the State. The local license from a county's health department is set locally and can vary but also would likely be of minimal cost. In addition, according to the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, there are currently 40 legally blind individuals licensed to run small businesses that sell concessions on State and Federal properties across the State. Operators must comply with the Federal Randolph-Sheppard Act and Michigan's PA 260 of 1978 and are also regulated by PA 188 of 2016, which regulates the licensing of all food services and requires establishments to pay MDARD and/or a local health department a fee for licensing and inspections.

Date Completed: 3-14-25 Fiscal Analyst: Bruce R. Baker