

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SB 33

Relating to food safety program fees

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| To: | Ways and Means Full Committee |
| From: | Natural Resources Subcommittee |
| Carrier: | Senator Taylor |

SB 33 authorizes the Department of Agriculture to increase by rule, certain food safety program license fees.

Under this measure, the increase for the food safety license fees are capped at 15% of the amount of the license fee for the preceding year. This 15% increase is in effect for the fiscal year beginning July 2022 and fiscal year beginning July 2023.

As amended, the fee cap is decreased from 15% to 7% for each fiscal year, based on \$1.5 million of General Fund provided for the Food Safety program in SB 5502, the Department's budget bill.

By increasing the statutory cap, the Department will be able to evaluate its budget needs along with stakeholder input to determine the appropriate fee levels to be adopted by rule. Once adopted, these fees will then require ratification by the Legislature.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends SB 33 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.