

Authority: Economic and Community Development
Committee Item EC27.2, adopted as amended by City of
Toronto Council on April 22 and 23, 2026
City Council voted in favour of this by-law on May 21,
2026
Written approval of this by-law was given by Mayoral
Decision 10-2026 dated May 21, 2026

CITY OF TORONTO

BY-LAW 508-2026

To amend City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 545, Licensing, to amend certain provisions related to hawkers and pedlars, refreshment vehicles, and refreshment vendors on foot, and to amend Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 441, Fees and Charges.

Whereas authority is given to Council by the City of Toronto Act, 2006 to pass by-laws respecting the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the City; the health, safety, and well-being of persons; the protection of persons and property, including consumer protection; and business licensing; and

Whereas Council has exercised this authority to adopt licensing requirements and provisions in the form of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 545, Licensing, which governs, among other businesses, hawkers and pedlars and refreshment vehicles, and whereas Council has adopted related licensing fees in Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 441, Fees and Charges; and

Whereas Council wishes to amend and later delete certain provisions of Chapter 545 related to hawkers and pedlars, amend provisions related to refreshment vehicles, and to adopt a new licensing requirement and provisions related to refreshment vendors on foot, and to make related amendments to the licensing fees within Chapter 441;

The Council of the City of Toronto enacts:

1. Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 545, Licensing, is amended by adding a new section § 545-2A(78) that reads: "Every owner or operator carrying on business as a refreshment vendor on foot".
2. Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 545, Licensing, is amended by deleting Article IV, Refreshments Sold from Vehicles, in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

ARTICLE IV Refreshment Vehicles

§ 545-38. Application requirements for refreshment vehicle owner or operator licence.

- A. Every owner and operator shall take out a separate licence for each refreshment vehicle.

- B. To apply for a refreshment vehicle licence or its renewal, or at any time during the term of a licence at the request of the Municipal Licensing and Standards Division, the applicant or licensee shall submit to the Municipal Licensing and Standards Division:
- (1) A written report from the Medical Officer of Health that confirms that the vehicle that will be used to serve refreshments has been inspected by Toronto Public Health, is in a sanitary condition, and is suitable for its proposed use;
 - (2) A detailed scale drawing of the vehicle, including the weight of the vehicle;
 - (3) If the vehicle is equipped with a propane heater, a written report from the Fuels Safety Branch of the Technical Standards and Safety Authority that confirms that the vehicle meets all applicable standards for the storage, handling, and use of propane; and
 - (4) A certificate of an insurance policy that meets the requirements of this article.
- C. Municipal Licensing and Standards shall not issue a refreshment vehicle owner or operator licence unless the vehicle that will be used to serve refreshments is an operating motor vehicle or is capable of being moved from place to place by human muscular power.
- D. Municipal Licensing and Standards shall not issue a refreshment vehicle owner or operator licence with respect to any vehicle that is intended to be drawn by an animal.

§ 545-39. Owner, operator, and refreshment vehicle requirements.

- A. No owner or operator of a refreshment vehicle shall permit any person who is not employed by the owner or operator or not licensed as a refreshment vehicle driver by the Municipal Licensing and Standards Division to drive their refreshment vehicle.
- B. No owner or operator of a refreshment vehicle shall permit any person who is not employed by the owner or operator to assist with the sale or dispensing or any refreshments from the vehicle.
- C. Every owner and operator of a refreshment vehicle shall ensure that:
- (1) The vehicle is of a type approved by the Municipal Licensing and Standards Division;
 - (2) The body, doors, and windows of the vehicle are of sufficiently sound construction to provide reasonable protection against dust, dirt, pests, and other injurious things;

- (3) The vehicle is equipped with a designated waste container made of an impermeable material with a secure lid;
 - (4) If the vehicle is equipped with a heater, it is also equipped with a fire extinguisher bearing a 4BC rating or better;
 - (5) The plate issued by Municipal Licensing and Standards in respect of the vehicle is securely affixed to the rear of the vehicle;
 - (6) The operator's refreshment vehicle licence issued in respect of the vehicle is displayed on or inside the vehicle in a location that is visible to the public;
 - (7) The words "Toronto Licence" followed by the operator's refreshment vehicle licence number are painted on both side panels of the vehicle using characters of a contrasting colour that are at least 15 centimetres in height;
 - (8) The vehicle and all equipment used for dispensing refreshments are in a clean and sanitary condition and in good repair;
 - (9) The vehicle and all parts, equipment, and processes used to prepare, store, or dispense refreshments meets the requirements of O. Reg. 493/17: Food Premises;
 - (10) The vehicle is used only for the preparation or sale of refreshment products that are permitted by O. Reg. 493/17: Food Premises;
- D. Every owner and operator of a refreshment vehicle shall, upon request by the Municipal Licensing and Standards Division, bring such vehicle to any person designated by the Executive Director for an inspection, at the place and time designated by the Municipal Licensing and Standards Division.

§ 545-40. Refreshment vehicle driver and employee requirements.

- A. Every driver and employee of a refreshment vehicle shall:
- (1) Wear clean clothes, be neat and clean in appearance, and have clean hands;
 - (2) Keep all designated waste containers in a clean and sanitary condition;
 - (3) Make available to members of the public a waste container, bag, or other receptacle for the disposal of waste;
 - (4) Keep the vehicle and all equipment used for dispensing refreshments in a clean and sanitary condition;
 - (5) Keep all storage containers used for storing dry products, toppings, syrups, or similar products in a clean and sanitary condition;

B. No driver or employee of a refreshment vehicle shall:

- (1) Serve any customer standing on any part of a highway intended for vehicles, which for certainty shall include any portion of a highway designated for use by bicycles;
- (2) Ring bells, chimes, or make any other recognizable sound more frequently than once every five minutes, for more than five seconds at a time in one place, or at any time after sunset;
- (3) Allow any sound amplified sound emanating from the vehicle to cause a nuisance;
- (4) Permit any person not employed by the operator of the vehicle to drive the vehicle or to sell or dispense any refreshments from the vehicle;

§ 545-41. Additional requirements for refreshment vehicles selling frozen desserts.

A. In addition to the other requirements of this article, every owner, operator, driver, and employee of a refreshment vehicle that sells frozen desserts shall ensure that:

- (1) The vehicle is a motor vehicle;
- (2) The vehicle is of an enclosed commercial type, such that the cab is separated from and has no direct access to the body of the vehicle used to store and sell refreshments, except where the vehicle is equipped with a 360 degree mirror system approved by the Municipal Licensing and Standards Division that enables the driver of the vehicle to view the entire perimeter of the vehicle while seated in the driver's seat;
- (3) The vehicle is equipped with a properly functioning and audible sound-emitting and warning device that is automatically activated when the vehicle is operating in reverse;
- (4) The vehicle is equipped with a cover over each of its bumpers that is curved or angled toward the vehicle body;
- (5) The words "WATCH FOR CHILDREN" are painted on the rear of the vehicle in black letters on a yellow background using characters that are at least 15 centimetres in height; and
- (6) Before departing from any stop made for the sale and dispensing of refreshments, the driver of the vehicle makes a complete safety tour around the vehicle.

B. Subsection A shall not apply to a refreshment vehicle that sells only hard frozen desserts, which may be sold from a pushcart or other vehicle capable of being

moved from place to place by human muscular power and that has been approved for such use by the Medical Officer of Health.

§ 545-42. Insurance requirements.

Every owner and operator of a refreshment vehicle shall, in respect of the operation of each refreshment vehicle for which they hold a licence:

- A. Procure a liability insurance policy for any motor vehicle of at least \$2,000,000 and for any vehicle that can be moved only by human muscular power of at least \$1,000,000 against loss or damage resulting from bodily injury or death or damage to property; and
 - B. Notify the Municipal Licensing and Standards Division of any change to the insurance policy and deposit an updated certificate of the insurance policy with the Municipal Licensing and Standards Division within 10 calendar days of the change.
3. Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 545, Licensing, is amended by adding the following new article:

**ARTICLE V
Refreshment Vendors on Foot**

§ 545-43. Application requirements for refreshment vendor on foot owner or operator licence.

To apply for a refreshment vendor on foot licence or its renewal, the applicant shall submit to the Municipal Licensing and Standards Division:

- A. A detailed scale drawing of any equipment to be used in the sale of refreshments;
- B. A written report from the Medical Officer of Health confirming that the refreshments to be sold and any equipment to be used in the business are sanitary and suitable for purpose; and
- C. A certificate of an insurance policy that meets the requirements of this article.

§ 545-44. Operating requirements for refreshment vendor on foot owners or operators.

Every owner or operator of a business selling refreshments for consumption by travelling on foot without a vehicle shall:

- A. Ensure that the containers or apparatuses from which refreshments are sold are of a type approved by the Municipal Licensing and Standards Division;

- B. Ensure that every person selling or handling refreshments is wearing clean clothes, is clean and neat in appearance, and has clean hands;
- C. Ensure that any equipment used for dispensing refreshments is clean and sanitary;
- D. At all times conspicuously display their refreshment vendor on foot licence such that it is visible to members of the public; and
- E. Ensure that all parts, equipment, and processes used for the preparation, storage, or dispensing of refreshments meet the requirements of Ontario Regulation 493/17: Food Premises under the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

§ 545-45. Insurance requirements.

Every owner or operator of a business selling refreshments for consumption by travelling on foot without a vehicle shall for each such business:

- A. Procure a liability insurance policy with respect to bodily injury and property damage in the amount of \$1,000,000; and
 - B. Notify the Municipal Licensing and Standards Division of any change to the policy and deposit an updated certificate of the policy with the Municipal Licensing and Standards Division within 10 calendar days of the change.
- 4. Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 545, Licensing, is amended by deleting § 545-226A.
 - 5. Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 545, Licensing, is amended by deleting Article XVII, Hawkers and Pedlars, in its entirety.
 - 6. Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 441, Fees and Charges, Appendix C – Schedule 12, Municipal Licensing and Standards, is amended by adding the following licensing fees:

Ref	Service Fee	Description	Category	Fee Basis	Fee	Annual Adj.
523	Licence and Permit Issuance	Application Fee: Refreshment Vendor on Foot Licence	Full Cost Recovery	Per application	\$140.00	Yes
524	Licence and Permit Issuance	Renewal Fee: Refreshment Vendor on Foot Licence	Full Cost Recovery	Per application	\$65.00	Yes

7. Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 441, Fees and Charges, is amended by deleting the following licensing fees:

Ref	Service Fee	Description	Category	Fee Basis	Fee	Annual Adj.
337	Licence and Permit Issuance	Application fee: Pedlar Assistant licence	Full Cost Recovery	Per application	\$474.52	Yes
338	Licence and Permit Issuance	Renewal fee: Pedlar Assistant licence	Full Cost Recovery	Per application	\$351.16	Yes
339	Licence and Permit Issuance	Application fee: Hawker Pedlar on Foot licence	Full Cost Recovery	Per application	\$758.01	Yes
340	Licence and Permit Issuance	Renewal fee: Hawker Pedlar on Foot licence	Full Cost Recovery	Per application	\$370.08	Yes
393	Licence and Permit Issuance	Application fee: Hawker/Pedlar licence – with motor vehicle	Full Cost Recovery	Per application	\$1,407.83	Yes
394	Licence and Permit Issuance	Renewal fee: Hawker /Pedlar licence – with motor vehicle	Full Cost Recovery	Per application	\$955.92	Yes
395	Licence and Permit Issuance	Application fee: Hawker/Pedlar licence – with push cart	Full Cost Recovery	Per application	\$1,407.83	Yes
396	Licence and Permit Issuance	Renewal fee: Hawker / Pedlar licence – with push cart	Full Cost Recovery	Per application	\$955.92	Yes

8. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 shall come into effect on March 1, 2027.

9. Sections 5 and 7 shall come into effect on March 1, 2028.

Enacted and passed on May 21, 2026.

Frances Nunziata,
Speaker

John D. Elvidge,
City Clerk

(Seal of the City)