Food Handler Certification
“The Indiana Experience”

Presented by

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Food Handler Certification Law

- The Good News:
  - Enacted by Indiana Legislature in 2001

- The Bad News:
  - Enacted by Indiana Legislature in 2001
Statutes Opened and Changed

- Certain parts were not acceptable
- State’s “clean up” bill
- Legislature combined both of our bills
  - Forced the state to accept a few undesirable pieces of the bill
  - Kept our clean-up bill alive
  - Learned how to compromise!
Food Handler Certification Law

- Created Indiana Code 16-42-5.2
- Required the State to adopt a new rule to administer certification and set monetary penalties for noncompliance
- Rule became effective in June of 2003
New Provisions of Law

- Preempts any local jurisdiction’s certification rule/ordinance
- One certified person per establishment
- Need not be present, but are responsible for food safety for all hours of operation
Adopted a Third Party Certification

- Legislature followed our recommendation to accept the Conference for Food Protection Standards as a basis
- The state rule further adopted the ANSI standards once they became effective
Industry Acceptance:

- Mixed, but too early to determine:
  - Another government mandate
  - Industry driven
    - Easier to accept
    - Many complaints and few compliments!
Third Party Certification

- Eliminates the need for the state approval or accreditation for:
  - Testing organizations
  - Examinations
  - Training organizations
Additional Benefits for 3rd Party Cert.

- National Reciprocity
  - Certification accepted in any jurisdiction
  - Improves marketability of certified person
  - Ensures legitimacy of the certification for the regulatory authority
Final Thoughts:

- Wanted industry buy-in before we proceeded
- Recent media blitz
  - Mostly newspapers
  - Plan to intensify in September
- Consumer acceptance
Questions?