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Colorado Swipe Fee Relief Act, SB26-134, Introduced to Senate Business, Labor & Technology Committee

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Denver, CO – **The Colorado Restaurant Association (CRA)** is allied with the Colorado Retail Council, the Colorado Association for Viticulture and Enology, the Colorado Convenience Store Association/Colorado Petroleum Marketers Association, the Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association, Colorado Independent Liquor Stores, EatDenver, the National Federation of Independent Business, the Tavern League of Colorado, and the American Booksellers Association in supporting [SB26-134, the Swipe Fee Relief Act](#), which was introduced in the Senate Business, Labor & Technology Committee today by sponsors Senators William Lindstedt and Iman Jodeh, House Speaker Julie McCluskie, and House Majority Leader Monica Duran.

SB 134 is a common-sense proposal that will eliminate credit-card interchange (or swipe) fees on sales taxes, which will help save Colorado restaurants and retailers tens of thousands of dollars or more at a time when every penny counts.

Respondents to a recent survey of CRA member restaurants shared that they anticipate paying an average of \$167,500 in total credit-card swipe fees this year. That is money that could and should go back into our local businesses and communities – not to out-of-state financial giants. If SB 134 passes into law, local restaurants estimate they'd save more than \$26,000 on average, an amount that could make the difference between staying open or shuttering their doors. See the full survey results below.

“It’s outrageous that multinational banks and credit-card companies that earn billions of dollars in profit every year are taking so much from small, local businesses, who are continuously being buried by runaway costs,” said Sonia Riggs, President and CEO of the CRA. “We’re grateful that Senators Lindstedt and Jodeh, Speaker McCluskie, and Majority Leader Duran have taken on this issue and are working to protect restaurants and local retailers from these predatory fees. If this bill passes, it will provide immediate financial relief for restaurants and small businesses at a time when they truly need it.”

Please reach out if you’d like to speak with Sonia Riggs, a coalition member, a local operator, or need more information of any kind.

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About the Colorado Restaurant Association

The Colorado Restaurant Association (CRA) is the champion for our State’s restaurant and hospitality community. Founded in 1933, the CRA protects, promotes, and serves a \$18+ billion industry comprised of more than 13,000 eating and drinking establishments and more than 282,000 workers, representing almost 10% of the state’s workforce. corestaurant.org



Colorado Restaurant Association Impact Survey February 2026: Swipe Fees

Source: CRA survey of 103 restaurant operators, conducted January 22 – February 25, 2026

Colorado restaurants pay tens of thousands of dollars each year in credit-card swipe fees – if not far more – at a critical time when every single dollar counts.

- In 2025, Colorado restaurants paid an average of **\$142,573** in credit-card swipe fees on all transactions.
 - 7% paid \$30,000 or less
 - 19% paid between \$30,001 - \$60,000
 - 26% paid between \$60,001 - \$100,000
 - 33% paid between \$100,001 - \$300,000
 - 15% paid between \$300,001 and \$1,000,000+
- In 2026, Colorado restaurants estimate they'll pay an average of **\$167,500** in credit-card swipe fees on all transactions.
 - 8% will pay \$30,000 or less
 - 16% will pay between \$30,001 - \$60,000
 - 29% will pay between \$60,001 - \$100,000
 - 32% will pay between \$100,001 - \$300,000
 - 15% will pay between \$300,001 and \$1,000,000+
- Colorado restaurants estimate they'd save an average of **more than \$26,000** if swipe fees were eliminated on sales tax.
 - 70% of restaurants would save up to \$50,000
 - About 17% of restaurants would save between \$50,001 and \$100,000
 - About 10% of restaurants would save between \$100,001 - \$500,000

Predatory swipe fees are one of the biggest cost challenges for full-service, independent restaurants.

- 87% of survey respondents operate local independent restaurants.
 - 48% single-unit independent restaurants
 - 39% multi-unit independent restaurants
 - 9% single- or multi-unit franchise
 - 4% other
- 74% of survey respondents represent full-service restaurants.
 - 41% casual-dining full service
 - 10% fine-dining full service
 - 23% family-dining full service
 - 26% fast casual/quick service/bakery/tavern/off-premise catering