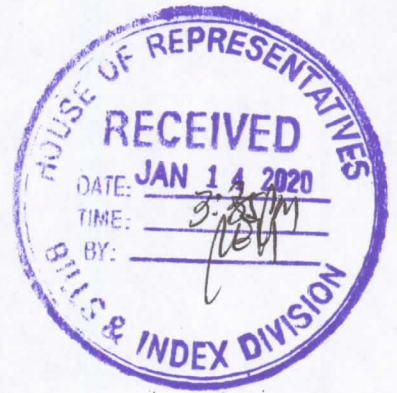


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 5931

Introduced by
Honorable Cristal L. Bagatsing

AN ACT
MANDATING THE DISPLAY OF NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION
ON THE MENU OF FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution provides that:

“The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. x x x”

According to World Health Organization, a healthy diet could prevent premature heart disease, stroke, diabetes and cancer. By requiring all food chain restaurant or food establishments to inform their customers the right information about nutrition and calories without compromising their health.

In view thereof, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. CRISTAL L. BAGATSING

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE DISPLAY OF NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE MENU
OF FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Menu Nutritional Information Act".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of the people to good health. Towards this end, the State hereby mandates the disclosure and display of the nutrition content information of food on the menus and menu boards of restaurants and fast food chain establishments to help Filipinos make healthier food choices.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a) Food establishment – any food retail establishment that is part of an affiliation of ten (10) or more food retail establishments, doing business under the same name, regardless of its type of ownership, and selling substantially the same menu items in standard content and portion servings.
- b) Food items – a unit serving of a ready-to-eat food or beverage for sale in a restaurant or food retail establishments.
- c) Food-on-display – food offered for sale that is visible to a customer before making a selection, and needs no further preparation before consumption.

- d) Standard menu item – many individual food item or combination of food items that is routinely listed on a menu or menu board, or routinely offered for sale by a restaurant or fast food chain establishment.
- e) Menu - a printed list or pictorial display of food items or combination of food items and their prices posted in and visible within a fast food chain as defined in this Act, including menus distributed or provided outside of the establishment.
- f) Menu Board - any list or pictorial display of food items and their prices posted in and visible within or outside a fast food chain as defined in this Act, including drive thru menu boards.
- g) Self-service food - food and beverages that the consumers serve themselves, including food offered for sale at a salad bar, buffet line, cafeteria line, or similar self-service facility.

SECTION 4. *Disclosure of Nutrition Information.* – All food establishments, as defined in this Act, are hereby required to disclose and display the nutrient content information of each standard menu item on their menus and menu boards as usually prepared and sold to the public. Food establishments offering self-service food and food on-display, the nutrient content information per item or serving shall be posted on a sign adjacent to such food.

The nutrition information shall indicate the amount of each of the following:

- a. Total fat;
- b. Saturated fat;
- c. Cholesterol;
- d. Sodium;
- e. Total Carbohydrates;
- f. Complex; carbohydrates;
- g. Sugars;
- h. Dietary fiber; and
- i. Total protein.

Disclosure and display of nutrition information shall not apply to custom orders on food that is part of a customary market test or temporary menu items.

SECTION 5. *Calorie Content.* – The disclosure of nutrition content information by food establishments, as required in the preceding section, shall indicate the calories contained in a standard menu item to the nearest five-calorie increment up

to and including fifty (50) calories, to the nearest ten-calorie increment above fifty (50) calories.

For foods that have fewer than five (5) calories, the declaration may be expressed as zero (0).

SECTION 6. *Disclosure Compliance Certificate.* – As an additional requirement for their operation within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, food establishments are hereby directed to apply for and secure a Nutrition Disclosure Compliance Certificate (NDCC) from the Department of Health (DOH). The NDCC issued by the DOH shall be valid for two (2) years from the date of issuance and may be renewed at least thirty (30) days before its expiration. The DOH may refuse to renew the NDCC of any restaurant or fast food chain establishment found to be in violation of this Act.

Failure of any restaurant or fast food chain establishment to secure a NDCC shall be a ground for the suspension or revocation of its license to operate.

SECTION 7. *Penalties.* – A fine of not less than twenty thousand pesos (PHP20,000) but not more than one hundred thousand pesos (PHP100,000) shall be imposed upon any person operating a food establishment found to have failed to comply with the mandatory nutrition information regarding the number of calories or nutrients contained in their standard menu items.

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, DOH shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation on this Act.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved.