

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 518

INTRODUCED BY: HON. MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

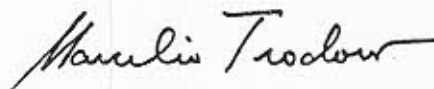
Article II, Section 15 of the Constitution states that "the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

To create consciousness of the importance of healthy eating habits and eventually healthy lifestyle, it is very important to know the nutritional content of the foods people are eating, especially those from fast-food chains. People suffering from certain diseases must be informed of the nutritional components of the food they eat, otherwise, they would be putting themselves at greater risk without them knowing it.

Restaurants and fast-food chains should be responsible in presenting and preparing their food. And they should be obliged to put nutrition labels, just a small price to pay necessary in promoting the good health of the community and the country in general. Presently, however, there is no law requiring all restaurant and food establishment operators to indicate the nutritional value of the foods they offer.

This bill seeks to promote health awareness among public by requiring concerned entities to provide for nutrition labels of food products.

Thus, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO
Representative, 1st District
City of Marikina

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HOUSE BILL NO. 518

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AN ACT
REQUIRING MANUFACTURERS, PACKERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF FOOD
PRODUCTS, AND RESTAURANT AND FAST-FOOD CHAIN OPERATORS TO
SPECIFY IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FOOD LABELS, PACKAGES OR
CONTAINERS THE NUTRITION INFORMATION OF EACH PRODUCT
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7394, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "CONSUMER ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES"

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

Section 1. Article 4 of Republic Act No. 7394 otherwise known as the Consumer Act of the Philippines is hereby amended to read, as follows:

"Article 4. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the term:

x x x.;

ag) "Food" means any substance, whether processed, semi-processed or raw, intended for human consumption and includes chewing gum, drinks and beverages and any substance which has been used as an ingredient or a component in the manufacture, preparation or treatment of food. THE TERM ALSO MEANS ANY MATERIAL USUALLY OF PLANT OR ANIMAL ORIGIN, CONTAINING OR CONSISTING OF ESSENTIAL NUTRIENTS THAT MUST BE TAKEN IN OR ASSIMILATED BY A PERSON AS NOURISHMENT TO MAINTAIN LIFE AND GROWTH.

IT ALSO INCLUDES THOSE BEING PROCESSED, DISTRIBUTED AND OFFERED IN PACKAGE OR CONTAINER, AS WELL AS, THOSE FOOD PRODUCTS NOT CONTAINED IN DISPOSABLE PACKAGE OR CONTAINER.

x x x.

bn) "Seller" means a person engaged in the business of selling consumer products directly to consumers [.] SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO RESTAURANTS AND FASTFOOD ESTABLISHMENTS. It shall include a supplier or distributor if (1) the seller is a subsidiary or affiliate of the supplier or distributor; (2) the seller interchanges personnel or maintains common or overlapping officers or directors with the supplier or distributor; or (3) the supplier or distributor provides or exercises supervision, direction or control over the selling practices of the seller.

x x x.

by) RESTAURANT – MEANS ANY PLACE WHERE MEALS CAN BE BOUGHT AND EATEN.

bz) FAST-FOOD CHAIN – MEANS ANY FOOD ESTABLISHMENT OFFERING FOOD SUCH AS HAMBURGERS, KEBABS, PIZZAS, ETC., USUALLY PREPARED AND SERVED QUICKLY.”

Sec. 2. Article 76 of same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Article 76. Prohibited Acts on Labeling and Packaging.- It shall be unlawful for any person, either as principal or agent, engaged in the labeling and packaging of any consumer product, to display or distribute or to cause to be displayed or distributed in commerce any consumer product whose package or label does not conform to the provisions of this Chapter.

The prohibition in this Chapter shall [not] apply to persons engaged in the business of wholesale or retail distributors of consumer products [except to the extent that] INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO such persons WHO:

- a) are engaged in the packaging or labeling of such products;
- b) prescribe or specify by any means the manner in which such products are packaged or labeled; or
- c) having knowledge, refuse to disclose the source of the mislabeled or mispackaged products.”

Sec. 3. Article 84 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows”

“Article 84. Additional Labeling Requirements for Food.- The following additional labeling requirements shall be imposed by the concerned department for food:

- a) expiry or expiration date, where applicable;
- b) whether the consumer product is semi-processed, fully processed, ready-to-cook, ready-to-eat, prepared food or just plain mixture;
- c) nutritive value, [if any;] WHICH SHALL CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING:

- (1) NUMBER OF SERVINGS OR OTHER UNITS OF MEASURE PER CONTAINERS;
- (2) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CALORIES DERIVED FROM ANY SOURCE, AND DERIVED FROM THE TOTAL FATS; AND
- (3) THE AMOUNT OF THE FOLLOWING NUTRIENTS IN EACH SERVING SIZE OR OTHER UNIT OF MEASUREMENT OF THE FOOD:

- (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

(4) ANY VITAMIN, MINERAL, OR OTHER NUTRIENT REQUIRED TO BE PLACED ON THE LABEL OR LABELING OF FOOD IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT SUCH INFORMATION WILL ASSIST CONSUMERS IN MAINTAINING HEALTHY DIETARY PRACTICES.

- d) whether the ingredients use are natural or synthetic, as the case may be;
- e) such other labeling requirements as the concerned department may deem necessary and reasonable."

Sec. 4. Article 85 of the same Act is hereby amended to read, as follows:

"x x x.

m) FOODS OR FOOD PRODUCTS OFFERED BY RESTAURANTS AND FAST-FOODS CHAINS SHALL LIKEWISE CONFORM WITH THE FOREGOING REGULATIONS;

n) IN CASE OF FOODS NOT CONTAINED IN ANY DISPOSABLE PACKAGE OR CONTAINER, RESTAURANT OPERATORS MUST PROVIDE CUSTOMERS WITH A FLYER OR LEAFLET CONTAINING THE PRESCRIBED NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION, WHEN REQUESTED ACCORDINGLY."

Sec. 5. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect 15 days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.