

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 66



Introduced by REP. ANTHONY G. DEL ROSARIO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to require mandatory disclosure and display of nutritional information of food offered on the menus and menu boards of restaurants and fast food chains and provide penalties for violation thereof.

The Constitution provides in Section 15 Article II, that "*The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.*" Likewise, in Section 12 Article XIII, it declares that "*The State shall establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system and undertake appropriate health manpower development and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems.*"

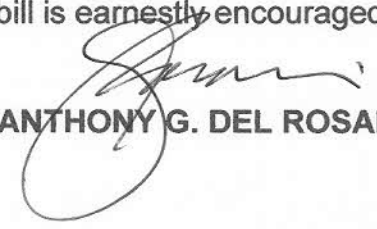
Being overweight or obese increases one's risk of acquiring a number of chronic diseases, such as coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes, stroke, hypertension, arthritis, and certain types of cancer. The World Health Organization (WHO) expects the percentage of obese Filipino men over thirty to increase from 23% of the population in 2005 to 24% in 2015, while the rate for women to increase from 34% in 2005 to 44% in 2015. The WHO also noted that 80% of premature heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes and 40% of cancers could have been prevented through a healthy diet.

The primary factors that bring about obesity in the general population are over-consumption of food and physical inactivity. Most people who eat at restaurants and fast food chain establishments tend to consume more food that have high calorie content and less of the healthier and more nutritious food. This is because most people are generally unaware or ill-informed of the calorie and nutritional content of the food they eat and this leads to a pattern of unhealthy eating that eventually cause obesity and a myriad of health problems.

Due to the proliferation of restaurants and fast food chains, a substantial portion of the average Filipino's diet is increasingly being made up of "fast food" from these establishments. Providing consumers specific data and information regarding the amount of calories and other nutritional information about the food sold in restaurants and fast food chains would help them decide and choose more appropriate and healthy food.

Mandatory disclosure and display of nutrition information for food offered on the menus and menu boards of restaurants and fast food chains will not only help minimize the health hazards that over-consumption of calories and poor nutrition that can cause to the public, it will also be a significant step towards achieving health consciousness among Filipinos.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is earnestly encouraged.


ANTHONY G. DEL ROSARIO

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HOUSE BILL NO. _____ 66

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ACT

REQUIRING THE MANDATORY DISCLOSURE AND DISPLAY OF NUTRITIONAL
CONTENT INFORMATION OF FOOD ON THE MENUS AND MENU BOARDS OF
RESTAURANTS AND FAST FOOD CHAIN ESTABLISHMENTS AND PROVIDING
PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

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

SECTION 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Food Nutrition
Information Act.”

SEC. 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 and reduce the hazards of
over-consumption of calories that ruin the health of Filipinos.

SEC. 3. **Definition of terms.** – As used in this Act:

- a) *Fast food chain* refers to 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 item* refers to a unit serving of a ready-to-eat food or beverage for
sale at a restaurant or food retail establishment;
- c) *Food-on-display* refers to 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* means any individual food item, or combination of
food items that is routinely listed on a menu or menu board, or routinely offered as food-
on-display or self-service food and offered for sale by a restaurant or fast food chain
establishment; and
- e) *Self-service food* refers to 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.

SEC. 4. **Disclosure of Nutrition Information.** – All restaurant and fast food
chain establishments nationwide 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. For restaurants and fast food chain
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.

SEC. 5. ***Calorie Content.*** – The disclosure of nutrition content information by restaurants and fast food chain establishments, as required in the preceding section, shall indicate the calories contained in a standard menu item to the nearest 5-calorie increment up to and including 50 calories, to the nearest 10-calorie increment above 50 calories and for foods that have fewer than 5 calories, the declaration may be expressed as zero.

SEC. 6. ***Disclosure Compliance Certificate.*** – All restaurants and fast food chain establishments are hereby directed to apply for and secure, as an additional requirement for their operation, within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, 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 issue 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 Nutrition Disclosure Compliance Certificate shall be a ground for the suspension or revocation of its license to operate.

SEC. 7. ***Penalties.*** – A fine not less than Twenty thousand Pesos (P20,000) but not more than One Hundred thousand Pesos (P100,000) shall be imposed upon any person operating a restaurant or fast food chain establishment found to have failed to comply with the mandatory nutrition information disclosures or had declared false or grossly inaccurate nutrition information regarding the amount of calories or nutrients contained in their standard menu items.

SEC. 8. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Secretary of Health shall, within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 9. ***Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SEC. 10. ***Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,