

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **5253**



Introduced by Hon. Delphine Gan Lee

EXPLANATORY NOTE

International and local medical researches have shown that a high dietary intake of saturated fat can lead to increased serum cholesterol levels which, in turn, can lead to Coronary Heart Disease (CHD). CHD is a killer disease in the Philippines and the number one killer disease in America.

To decrease the risk of acquiring the disease, private and public studies by experts in the fields of medicine and nutrition unanimously support the conclusion that the people should know how much fat, particularly saturated fat, they consume and should guard against too much consumption of fat in general and saturated fat in particular.

Republic Act No. 7394 or the "Consumer Act of the Philippines," Articles 77 and 84 provides for the minimum labeling requirements for consumer products and additional labeling requirements for food, respectively. However, these provisions on labeling requirements do not expressly require information on the fat and cholesterol content of foods. Thus, not all consumer food products contain such information.

This bill therefore seeks to provide consumers with more information on the fat and cholesterol content of foods through improved labeling. The early passage of this bill is thus earnestly requested.



HON. DELPHINE GAN LEE
Representative AGRI Party-List

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1 **AN ACT**
2 **PRESCRIBING LABELING REQUIREMENTS**
3 **FOR FOODS WHICH CONTAIN SATURATED FAT AND CHOLESTEROL**

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

6 SECTION 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Low Cholesterol
7 Consumer Education Act 2014.”

8 SECTION 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to protect the
9 interests of the consumer, promote his general welfare and to establish standards of conduct
10 for business and industry. Towards this end, the State shall implement measures to achieve
11 the following objectives:

12 (A) Protection against hazards to health and safety; and

13 (B) Provision of information and education to facilitate sound choice and the proper
14 exercise of rights by the consumer;

15 The State shall therefore, enforce compulsory labeling and fair packaging to enable
16 the consumer to obtain accurate information as to the nature, quality and quantity of the
17 contents of consumer products and to facilitate his/ her comparison of the value of such
18 products.

1 SECTION 3. ***Definition of Terms.*** – For purposes of this Act, the term:

2 (A) “Saturated Fat” refers to that type of fat with single covalent bonds between the
3 carbons of its fatty acids, which molecule’s available bonding sites are entirely filled with
4 hydrogen atoms. It is solid at room temperature and is found in foods from animal meats and
5 skin, dairy products and some vegetables;

6 (B) “Cholesterol” means the sterol found in animal tissue in combination with
7 triglycerides and protein-bound phospholipids. It is a precursor to the formation of the Low
8 Density Lipoprotein (LDL), high levels of which in the blood, leads to coronary heart disease.

9 (C) “Label” or “labeling” means the display of written, printed or graphic matter on
10 any consumer product or its immediate container, tag, literature or other suitable material
11 affixed thereto for the purpose of giving information as to identity, components, ingredients,
12 attributes, directions for use, specifications and such other information as may be required by
13 law or regulations; and

14 (D) “Standards” means to a set of conditions to be fulfilled to ensure the quality and
15 safety of a product.

16 SECTION 4. ***Standards.*** – Not later than one hundred eighty (180) days after the date
17 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall establish and publish the following:

18 (A) Standards for the recommended maximum daily levels of total fat, total saturated
19 fat, and cholesterol in total dietary intake, expressed as a percentage of calories from fat and
20 total grams of fat, and

21 (B) Relevant and appropriate standards for determining service sizes of foods for
22 purposes of enabling consumers to make comparisons of fat content contained in similar or
23 like products.

SECTION 5. **Labeling.** – The Department of Health shall impose an additional labeling requirement for food which specifically shows:

(A) Saturated fat content; and

(B) Cholesterol content.

SECTION 6. **Prohibited Acts on Labeling.** – It shall be unlawful for any person, either as principal or agent, engaged in the labeling or packaging of any food consumer product, to display or distribute or to cause to be displayed or distributed in commerce, any food consumer product whose label does not conform to the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 7. **Penalties.** – Any person who shall violate the provisions of this Act shall be subject to a fine of not less than One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) but not more than Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than four (4) years or both, at the discretion of the court.

SECTION 8. **Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 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.

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

Approved,