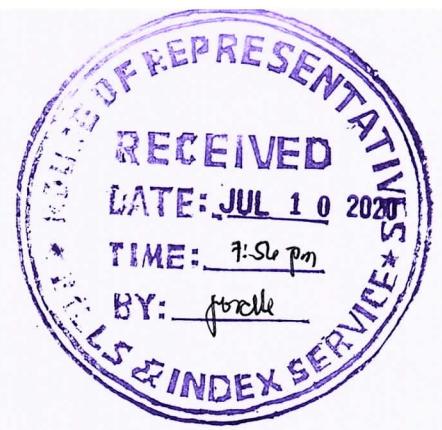


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7083



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1 Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that "[i]t is the policy of
2 the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill
3 health consciousness among them."

4
5 According to the Asia Roundtable on Food Innovation for Improved Nutrition's
6 (AROFIIN) study published in 2017, the World Health Organization (WHO) found
7 that 23.6% of Filipino adults above age 18 are overweight, with greater
8 prevalence in women (26.3%) than in men (21%). It was likewise reported that
9 Filipinos living in urban areas consume fewer fruits and vegetables, and eat more
10 energy-dense foods and foods that are high in saturated fats.

11
12 It was also found that obesity has an effect in the economy since the condition
13 would entail direct costs (cost of healthcare) albeit relatively low, and indirect
14 costs (productivity losses from absenteeism and losses from early deaths).

15
16 Several solutions have been offered including population-level policies, but the
17 study also suggests that obesity may be addressed through psychology and
18 behavioral change. They found that obesity, while commonly a result of genetic
19 factors, is more commonly caused by the consumption of unhealthy foods and
20 doing little to no physical activities. It is said that these behaviors probably
21 stemmed from lack of information among other factors.

22
23 A quick examination of the available food establishments show that there is no
24 effective attempt at instilling health consciousness and encouraging healthy food
25 options in the Philippines. Filipinos purchase meals from food service
26 establishments without knowing its nutritional value. We are unaware of what
27 we are putting in our bodies, and continuing this lack of information and
28 consciousness might prove fatal to our drive towards a healthier and more
29 productive population. Thus, to address the lack of information among

1 consumers, this bill seeks to mandate the inclusion of nutritional information in
2 food service establishments' menus, display boards, and display tags in order to
3 allow Filipinos to make informed choices on their food and beverage intake. It is
4 hoped that through this legislation, health consciousness will slowly be instilled
5 among us and will eventually lead not only to a decline in obesity but also other
6 medical conditions brought about by an unhealthy lifestyle.



ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS

Representative, Ang Probinsyano Partylist

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HOUSE BILL NO. 7083

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1 **AN ACT MANDATING THE INCLUSION OF NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION OF**
2 **MEALS SERVED BY FOOD RETAIL BUSINESSES**
3

4 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the*
5 *Philippines in Congress assembled:*
6

7 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Healthy Food
8 Choices Act of 2020.”
9

10 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect
11 and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness
12 among them. The State shall endeavor to give the people better nutritional and
13 health information in order for them to make more informed choices on meals
14 that they consume.
15

16 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:
17

- 18 a) “Food service establishment” means all establishments doing
19 business of serving meals to its customers, including salad bars,
20 buffet lines, cafeteria line, and other self-service formats. It shall
21 include company-owned establishments as well as franchised
22 outlets of a parent company doing food service as its primary
23 business, except *carinderias*, micro and small businesses, food carts
24 and food stalls in markets, ambulant food or beverage cart vendors,
25 and other similar businesses;
26 b) “Menu” shall mean a printed list or a display of pictures of food items
27 and prices, including those displayed outside or on windows of
28 establishments and drive-thru lanes, being served by a food service
29 establishment;

- 1 c) "Menu item" pertains to each food item or meal, and beverage
2 included in the menu and being served in the food service
3 establishment
4 d) "Nutritional information" shall include the total number of calories
5 for each menu item.
6

7 SECTION 4. *Mandatory Inclusion of Nutritional Information on Menus* – All
8 food service establishments shall include the nutritional information for each
9 menu item in their respective menus, display boards and display tags.
10

11 For food service establishments with food bars, buffet line, cafeteria line,
12 self-service beverages or food, and all other self-service format, each dish shall
13 have a label indicating the name of the dish, amount of recommended serving
14 size for one (1) person, and the nutritional information for the said recommended
15 service size.
16

17 For food service establishments which use display boards as menu such
18 as fast food restaurants and similar establishments, the nutritional information
19 shall be likewise be included in their display boards.
20

21 For food service establishments offering a combination of meals or
22 packages, and other similar promotional schemes, the nutritional information
23 for each menu item included in the combination, package or promotional offer
24 shall be indicated.
25

26 For food service establishments offering meals served in platters or in
27 quantities meant to be shared, the menu shall include the number of individuals
28 that may share per platter and the nutritional information per individual serving.
29

30 For food service establishments offering a drive-thru service, the display
31 boards installed in their drive-thru lanes shall include the following statement:
32 "NUTRITION INFORMATION AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST."
33

34 SECTION 5. *Exemptions from Section 4.* – Exempted from the provisions of
35 Section 4 of this Act on the mandatory inclusion of nutritional information on
36 menus are *carinderias*, backyard food stalls, ambulant food vendors, food kiosks,
37 and other similar businesses. However, they are not precluded from including
38 the nutritional information for their meals and food products should they
39 voluntarily do so.
40

41 SECTION 6. *Sanctions for non-compliance* – Any food service establishment
42 found to have failed to comply with the inclusion of mandatory nutritional
43 information in their menu, display boards, and display tags shall, after notice
44 and hearing, be subject to the following sanctions:
45

- 1 a) Written warning and a fine of one hundred thousand pesos (PhP
2 100,000) for the first offense;
3 b) Suspension of business operations until compliance with the law
4 and a fine of two hundred fifty thousand pesos (PhP 250,000) for the
5 second offense, with an additional fifty thousand pesos (PhP 50,000)
6 for every non-compliant branch for the second offense; and
7 c) Cancellation of business permit without prejudice to re-application
8 upon proof of full compliance and a fine of five hundred thousand
9 pesos (PhP 500,000), with an additional fifty thousand pesos (PhP
10 50,000) for every non-compliant branch for the third offense.
11

12 SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – The Department of
13 Health, in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry, and in
14 consultation with other concerned agencies, non-governmental organizations,
15 food service business organizations, private sector and consumer groups, shall
16 promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations within six (6)
17 months from effectivity of this Act.
18

19 SECTION 8. *Separability Clause*. – If any provision or part of this Act is
20 held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts unaffected
21 shall remain in full force and effect.
22

23 SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause*. – All laws, executive orders, presidential
24 decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and
25 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
26 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.
27

28 SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
29 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general
30 circulation.
31

32 Approved,
33
34

