

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3552



Introduced by REP. FAUSTINO 'BOJIE' G. DY III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to mandate a health star rating in labelling consumer food products, amending for the purpose Republic Act No. 7394 otherwise known as the "*Consumer Act of the Philippines.*"

The health star rating is a front-of-pack labeling system that allows the consumer to compare the nutrition of similar goods quickly and easily. The system assigns a star rating from one-half to five stars, with more stars indicating a healthier option. A packaged product is assigned a rating based on its nutritional profile thus allowing consumers to quickly check the nutritional value of the product. At present, this system is used in Australia and New Zealand.

According to the Center for Disease and Prevention in the United States, good nutrition is essential to keep people healthy across their lifespan. A healthy diet helps children grow and develop properly and reduces their risk of chronic diseases. Adults who eat a healthy diet live longer and have a lower risk of obesity, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and certain cancers.

As of 2024, based on a report from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the leading causes of death in the Philippines are heart diseases, neoplasms, cerebrovascular diseases, pneumonia, and diabetes mellitus.¹

According to the 2023 National Nutrition Survey (NNS), the prevalence of obesity among Filipino adults remains high at 4 in every 10 (39.8 percent), with a significantly higher prevalence among women (45.4 percent) and urban dwellers (44.5 percent), posing a public health concern.

¹<https://psa.gov.ph/content/2024-causes-death-philippines-provisional-30-november-2024>

The health star rating system is an efficient way to inform and equip Filipinos with the necessary information that will help them make the right choices for their health, thereby reducing their vulnerability to life-threatening diseases.

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



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AN ACT
MANDATING THE USE OF A HEALTH STAR RATING SYSTEM ON THE LABELS OF PACKAGED FOOD PRODUCTS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7394, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CONSUMER ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES"

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

SECTION 1. Article 84 of Republic Act No. 7394 otherwise known as the "*Consumer Act of the Philippines*" 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) **HEALTH STAR RATING LABEL THAT IS CALCULATED BASED ON THE nutritive value, [~~if any~~]; WHICH INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:**
 - (1) **TOTAL ENERGY OR KILOJOULES;**
 - (2) **SATURATED FAT;**
 - (3) **SODIUM OR SALT;**
 - (4) **SUGAR CONTENT; AND**
 - (5) **FIBER.**
- d) whether the ingredients used are natural or synthetic, as the case may be;
- e) such other labeling requirements as the concerned department may deem necessary and reasonable."

“FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE, HEALTH STAR RATING REFERS TO A FRONT-OF-PACK LABELLING SYSTEM THAT MEASURES THE OVERALL NUTRITIONAL PROFILE OF PACKAGED FOOD FROM ONE-HALF (½) STAR TO FIVE (5) STARS AND PROVIDES A QUICK, EASY AND STANDARD GUIDE TO COMPARE SIMILARLY PACKAGED FOODS. THE MANUFACTURERS OF PACKAGED FOOD SHALL CALCULATE THE HEALTH STAR RATING OF THEIR PRODUCTS AND SUBMIT THE RATING TO THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION FOR APPROVAL.”

SECTION 2. The Food and Drug Administration, in consultation with the National Nutrition Council and other technical and nutrition experts, shall develop the health star rating system that will be used by the food manufacturers pursuant to this Act.

SECTION 3. All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,