

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6810**



Introduced by **REP. JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines faces a rising tide of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including obesity, hypertension, diabetes, and cardiovascular illness - conditions strongly linked to poor diet and limited public awareness of nutrition. The 2021 Expanded National Nutrition Survey found that 27.0% of Filipino adults are overweight and 8.2% are obese, with increasing prevalence among children and adolescents.¹ Left unaddressed, this trend poses a serious threat to public health, economic productivity, and the sustainability of our healthcare system.

One of the most practical and evidence-based policy tools to address this crisis is mandatory menu labeling. Research shows that providing calorie and nutritional data at the point of purchase helps consumers make healthier choices. A systematic review published in the *American Journal of Public Health* found that menu labeling can reduce caloric intake by 50-100 calories per meal.² In jurisdictions where nutritional disclosures are enforced, such as the United States, Singapore, and the United Kingdom, food manufacturers and restaurants have responded by reformulating products and menu items to meet public demand for healthier options.³

¹ Dep't of Sci. & Tech.-Food & Nutrition Research Inst., 2021 Expanded National Nutrition Survey(2022).

² Michael W. Long et al., *Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of the Impact of Restaurant Menu Calorie Labeling*, 105 Am. J. Pub. Health e11 (2015).

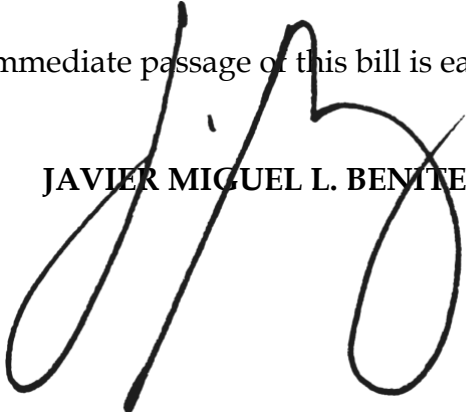
³ See Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148, § 4205, 124 Stat. 119 (2010); Health Promotion Board, *Healthier Dining Programme*, SINGAPORE, (last visited Aug. 1, 2025); Calorie Labelling (Out of Home Sector) (England) Regulations 2021, S.I. 2021/1183 (UK)..

With dining out now a regular part of Filipino life, this bill ensures that nutrition is not left off the menu by requiring chain restaurants and food service providers with at least ten (10) branches nationwide to display the caloric content and comprehensive nutritional profile of all standard menu items on printed and digital menus, including third-party delivery platforms. The measure empowers consumers by making nutrition data accessible and understandable, promoting informed decision-making and dietary awareness.

Recognizing the resource constraints of small businesses, the bill exempts establishments with fewer than ten (10) branches from mandatory compliance. Still, it encourages voluntary participation through an incentivized Nutritional Disclosure Compliance Certificate (NDCC) program. The bill also provides for appropriate exemptions, including customized orders, limited-time offerings, and unlisted condiments, subject to review and update by the DOH and FDA.

This legislative measure is anchored on the State's constitutional mandate to protect and promote the right to health⁴. It supports our obligations under global frameworks, including the World Health Organization's Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs (2013–2020) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being.⁵ By giving Filipinos the information they need to make better choices, this bill takes a practical, preventive step toward a healthier nation.

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



JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ

⁴ CONST. (1987), Art. II, § 15 (Phil.).

⁵ World Health Organization, *Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013-2020* (Geneva: WHO, 2013); United Nations, *Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being*.

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AN ACT MANDATING THE DISCLOSURE OF NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION IN MENUS, MENU BOARDS, AND SIGNAGE OF COVERED FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS TO PROMOTE INFORMED CONSUMER CHOICES, TRANSPARENCY, AND PUBLIC HEALTH

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "NUTRIWISE (Nutrition Information for Wise Eating & Smart Engagement) Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Principle.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and to uphold their right to make informed decisions in matters affecting their well-being. Recognizing the increasing prevalence of diet-related non-communicable diseases in the country, the State affirms its commitment to address such public health concerns through preventive and regulatory measures.

Toward this end, the State shall mandate nutritional transparency in large food service establishments to promote awareness, empower consumers to make informed dietary choices, and instill health consciousness among the Filipino people.

SEC. 3. *Coverage.* - This Act shall apply to all food service establishments that are part of a chain with a minimum of ten (10) branches nationwide operating

under the same trade name, regardless of their type of ownership, and offering for sale substantially the same menu items.

Covered food service establishments include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Quick service restaurants (QSRs) or fast-food chains;
- (b) Casual dining and full-service restaurants that are part of a national chain;
- (c) Cafés, bakeries, coffee shops, or dessert outlets operating under a common brand name;
- (d) Food court concessionaires, food kiosks, or stalls that are part of national or franchised networks, and online or delivery platforms operated directly by or on behalf of a covered food chain.

This Act shall also apply to menu labeling on digital platforms, mobile applications, drive-thru systems, and third-party delivery services where the menu is provided or controlled by the covered food chain.

For purposes of this Act, food chains with fewer than ten (10) branches may voluntarily comply. They shall be encouraged to do so through incentives as may be determined by the Implementing Rules and Regulations (“IRR”).

SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- (a) *“Allergens / Common Food Allergens”* – Ingredients or substances in food that are known to cause allergic reactions or hypersensitivity in susceptible individuals. These shall include, but not be limited to, milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, and soybeans, as well as other allergens as may be identified by the DOH or FDA in accordance with prevailing scientific standards.
- (b) *“Caloric Content / Calories”* – The amount of energy provided by a food or beverage item, expressed in kilocalories (kcal), as determined through laboratory analysis or reliable nutrient databases recognized by the Department of Health (DOH) or the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- (c) *“Comprehensive Nutritional Information”* – The detailed nutrient profile of a food or beverage item, including but not limited to the amount per serving of total fat, saturated fat, trans fat, cholesterol, sodium, carbohydrates,

sugars, dietary fiber, and protein, as well as any other nutrients required under DOH or FDA regulations.

(d) *“Covered Establishments / Covered Food Service Establishments”* – Food service businesses operating within the Philippines that are part of a chain with ten (10) or more branches nationwide, whether directly owned or operated under a franchise agreement, and that offer standardized food or beverage items. This includes, but is not limited to, fast-food chains, full-service restaurants, cafeterias, food courts, and similar establishments, whether operating as dine-in, takeout, or delivery services.

(e) *“Menu”* – Any written, printed, digital, or electronic listing of food or beverage items offered for sale by a covered establishment, regardless of format or platform, including but not limited to physical menus, digital displays, mobile applications, and online platforms.

(f) *“Menu Board”* - Any physical or electronic signage within or outside the premises of a food service establishment that prominently displays available food or beverage items and their prices, and which is used by customers to make ordering decisions.

(g) *“Nutritional Disclosure Compliance Certificate (NDCC)”* - A certificate issued by the DOH or its authorized agency, upon submission and verification of compliance by a covered establishment with the nutritional disclosure requirements prescribed under this Act and its implementing rules.

(h) *“QR Code”* - A Quick Response Code or similar two-dimensional barcode that, when scanned using a digital device, links the user to the nutritional information, allergen data, or any other relevant content required under this Act.

(i) *“Standard Menu Item”* - Any food or beverage item that is routinely offered for sale by a covered establishment and is prepared using a consistent recipe and portion size. It excludes temporary or limited-time offerings and custom orders tailored to specific customer instructions.

(j) *“Temporary or Limited-Time Menu Item”* - A food or beverage item that is offered for sale by a covered establishment for a period not exceeding ninety (90) calendar days within a calendar year, whether continuously or intermittently, and that is not part of the standard or regularly offered menu.

(k) *“Third-Party Delivery Platform”* - Any web-based or app-based service operated by an entity independent of the covered establishment, which facilitates the online ordering, payment, and delivery of food and beverage items to consumers on behalf of food service establishments.

SEC. 5. *Mandatory Disclosure of Nutritional Information.* - All covered food service establishments shall be required to disclose the nutritional content of each standard menu item offered for sale, in accordance with the following requirements:

(a) The caloric content, expressed in kilocalories (kcal), shall be clearly and conspicuously displayed adjacent to the name or price of the item on all physical and digital menus, menu boards, and ordering platforms, including those used for dine-in, take-out, and delivery;

(b) A prominent, easily accessible notice shall be provided on menus and menu boards indicating the **availability of comprehensive nutritional information**, whether in printed form, via digital display, or via a quick response (“QR”) code. Such information shall include, per serving:

- (i) Total fat;
- (ii) Saturated fat,
- (iii) Trans fat,
- (iv) Cholesterol,
- (v) Sodium,
- (vi) Total carbohydrates,
- (vii) Sugars,
- (viii) Dietary fiber, and
- (ix) Protein;

(c) Where applicable, the presence of common food allergens shall be disclosed, consistent with the latest guidelines and issuances of the Department of Health (“DOH”) and the Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”).

SEC. 6. *Calorie Content.* - The disclosure of nutrition content information by covered food service establishments, as required in the preceding section, shall indicate the calories contained in a standard menu item to the nearest five-calorie increment up to and including fifty (50) calories, to the nearest ten-calorie increment above fifty (50) calories.

For foods that have fewer than five (5) calories, the declaration may be expressed as zero (0).

SEC. 7. *Accessibility of Nutritional Information.* - Covered food service establishments shall ensure that complete nutritional information for each standard menu item is readily accessible to consumers at the point of purchase or ordering. Such information shall be made available in printed form within the premises of the covered food service establishment; published on the official website or mobile application of the food service chain; displayed on third-party delivery platforms, where applicable and feasible; and accessible through other digital means, including but not limited to QR codes prominently placed at ordering counters, self-service kiosks, drive-thru lanes, or table menus.

SEC. 8. *Disclosure Compliance Certificate.* - As an additional requirement for their operation within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, covered food service establishments are hereby directed to apply for and secure a Nutritional Disclosure Compliance Certificate ("NDCC") from the DOH. The NDCC issued by the DOH shall be valid for two (2) years from the date of issuance and may be renewed at least thirty (30) days before its expiration. The DOH may refuse to renew the NDCC of a covered food service establishment that has violated this Act.

Failure by any covered food service establishment to secure an NDCC shall be grounds for the suspension or revocation of its license to operate.

SEC. 9. *Exemption.* - The following food items shall be exempt from the mandatory nutritional disclosure requirements under this Act:

- (a) Menu items that are offered on a temporary or limited-time basis, not exceeding a cumulative period of ninety (90) days within a calendar year;
- (b) Customized orders that deviate from standard preparation, made in accordance with the specific request or instruction of the customer; and
- (c) Condiments, garnishes, and other accompaniments provided on a self-service basis or **not listed as distinct items** on menus, menu boards, or similar ordering materials, including buffet items not individually labeled or promoted.

SEC. 10. *Monitoring, and Enforcement.* - The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), shall be primarily responsible for monitoring compliance with the provisions of this Act and its implementing rules and regulations. The DOH and FDA shall have the authority to:

(a) Conduct inspections of covered food service establishments to verify compliance;

(b) Impose administrative penalties, including fines and corrective measures, for violations of this Act and its implementing rules;

(c) Issue updated guidance on nutritional disclosure, allergen information, and other related matters consistent with scientific and regulatory developments.

In the exercise of their authority to amend, expand, or modify the list of exemptions, allergens, and other applicable standards under this Act or its implementing rules, the DOH and FDA shall conduct a periodic review every three (3) years, or as the need arises, based on nutritional science, public health data, and global best practices. Before issuing any such revision, the DOH and FDA shall conduct public consultations with relevant stakeholders, including, but not limited to, representatives of the food service industry, consumer protection groups, health professionals, and nutrition experts. All revisions shall be subject to transparency, due process, and evidence-based policymaking.

The DOH and FDA shall likewise develop and implement a nationwide education and public awareness campaign to enhance both industry compliance and consumer understanding of the nutritional information provided under this Act.

SEC. 11. *Penalties.* - Failure to comply with the provisions of this Act shall subject the erring covered food service establishment to the following administrative penalties:

(a) For the first violation, a written warning shall be issued with a directive to rectify the deficiency within a period not exceeding thirty (30) days;

(b) For the second violation, an administrative fine not exceeding Fifty Thousand Pesos (₱50,000.00) shall be imposed;

(c) For the third and succeeding violations, an administrative fine not exceeding One Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱100,000.00) shall be imposed. For this purpose, a violation shall be construed as each standard menu item, branch, or instance found noncompliant during a single inspection or regulatory review, as further defined in the IRR. In addition, the covered food service establishment may be subject to the suspension or revocation of its business permit or license after due process.

The DOH and FDA shall promulgate guidelines under the IRR for determining the gravity, recurrence, and count of violations for penalty assessment.

SEC. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, in coordination with the FDA, the DTI, and relevant stakeholders from the food service industry and consumer rights groups, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act effectively.

SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional and invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 15. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,