

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8507



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines declares it a policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and to instill health consciousness among them. This constitutional mandate recognizes that public health is not merely a medical concern but a matter of national development that directly affects productivity, quality of life, and the overall well-being of the population.

In recent years, the Philippines has experienced a steady rise in lifestyle-related diseases associated with unhealthy dietary habits and sedentary lifestyles. Data from the World Health Organization and other public health studies indicate that a significant proportion of Filipino adults are either overweight or obese. Earlier findings cited by the Asia Roundtable on Food Innovation for Improved Nutrition (AROFIIN) revealed that approximately 23.6 percent of Filipino adults aged 18 years and above were overweight, with a higher prevalence among women than men. More recent public health reports likewise show a continuing upward trend in obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular illnesses.

Urbanization and changing consumption patterns have significantly contributed to this trend. Many Filipinos increasingly rely on food service establishments—including fast-food outlets, restaurants, and cafés—for their daily meals. Studies have shown that urban consumers often consume fewer fruits and vegetables and instead opt for highly processed, energy-dense foods that are high in sugar, sodium, and saturated fats.

The growing prevalence of obesity and other diet-related illnesses has substantial economic implications. Beyond the direct costs associated with medical treatment and long-term care, these conditions result in significant indirect costs to society through lost productivity, increased absenteeism, and

premature mortality. The rising burden of non-communicable diseases, therefore presents a serious challenge to the country's public health system and economic development.

Public health experts increasingly emphasize that addressing obesity requires not only medical interventions but also behavioral and policy-based approaches that empower individuals to make healthier choices. Research suggests that while genetic factors may contribute to obesity, unhealthy dietary habits and insufficient physical activity remain among its primary causes. These behaviors are often reinforced by limited access to clear and accessible nutritional information, particularly in food establishments where consumers make quick purchasing decisions without adequate knowledge of the nutritional content of the meals they consume.

At present, consumers purchasing food from many food service establishments are generally not provided with clear information regarding the calorie content, sugar levels, sodium content, and other nutritional values of menu items. This lack of accessible information limits the ability of Filipinos to make informed dietary choices and undermines the State's policy of promoting health consciousness among the population.

Recognizing this gap, this bill seeks to require food service establishments to disclose basic nutritional information for food and beverage items offered in their menus, display boards, and product tags. By ensuring that consumers are informed of the nutritional content of the food they purchase, the measure empowers Filipinos to make healthier choices and encourages greater awareness of dietary habits.

This proposed measure complements existing health-related legislation, including Republic Act No. 10611 and Republic Act No. 10963, which imposed excise taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages partly to discourage excessive sugar consumption. It likewise aligns with the regulatory mandate of the Food and Drug Administration of the Philippines to ensure proper food labeling and consumer protection. Rather than conflicting with these existing laws, the proposed measure strengthens the country's broader policy framework on public health and nutrition by extending transparency requirements to food service establishments where labeling requirements are currently limited.

By promoting transparency and empowering consumers with information, this bill supports a preventive approach to healthcare—one that encourages healthier lifestyles and reduces the long-term burden of diet-related diseases.

Ultimately, a healthier population contributes to a more productive workforce, lower healthcare costs, and stronger national development. Through this measure, the State affirms its commitment to safeguarding public health

and to fostering a culture of informed and responsible food consumption among Filipinos.



ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS
Representative, Ang Probinsyano Partylist

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AN ACT MANDATING THE INCLUSION OF NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION OF MEALS SERVED BY FOOD RETAIL BUSINESSES

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 “Nutritional Information Act.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved,