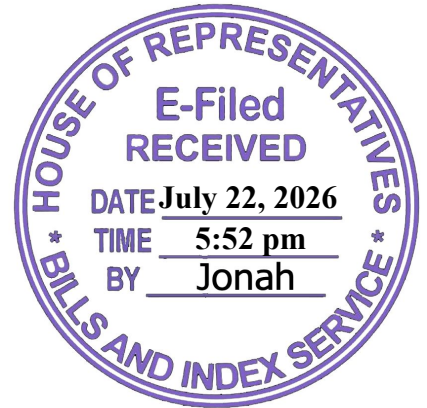




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10196**



Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez and Jude A. Acidre

AN ACT
MANDATING THE DISPLAY OF NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION ON
THE MENU OF FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and to instill health consciousness among them. This guiding principle remains especially urgent today, as lifestyle-related illnesses continue to rise across all age groups in the Philippines.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), ischemic heart disease remained the leading cause of death in the country in 2023, accounting for 18.8% of total deaths. It was followed by neoplasms or cancers (10.7%), cerebrovascular diseases (10.1%), and diabetes mellitus (6.3%). These diseases are heavily linked to poor diet, sedentary behavior, and other preventable lifestyle factors. Alarming, cases of such chronic illnesses are no longer confined to older age groups. Increasingly, Filipinos in their 20s and 30s are being diagnosed with hypertension, high cholesterol, obesity, and type 2 diabetes which are conditions that are closely tied to unhealthy food choices and a lack of nutritional awareness.

In a society where fast food, sugary beverages, and processed meals are widely accessible and heavily marketed, consumers, especially the youth, often make uninformed dietary decisions that significantly increase their long-term health risks. While packaged food products are required to display nutritional

information, this standard of transparency is not consistently applied to food served in restaurants and other food service establishments, where many Filipinos eat on a regular basis.

This bill seeks to promote health consciousness and empower consumers to make informed dietary decisions by mandating the clear and visible display of nutritional information, such as calorie count and key nutrient content, for all food items listed on the menus of restaurants, fast food chains, and similar establishments. By increasing transparency in food labeling, this measure aims to encourage healthier consumption habits, reduce the risk of diet-related diseases, and support the broader public health agenda of preventive care.

This proposed legislation advances the State's constitutional duty to protect the people's health by addressing one of its root causes, which is lack of information. Through informed choices, individuals can take greater control over their health outcomes, leading to a more health-literate, conscious, and resilient Filipino population.

A similar bill was previously filed in the 19th Congress by Representative Joseph Gilbert Violago.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



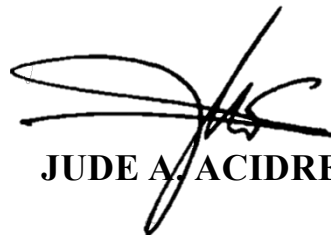
FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ



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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Mandatory Display of Nutritional Information Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of the people to good health and instill health consciousness among them. The State recognizes that food intake is crucial to the promotion of this policy and that there is a need to keep the consumers informed of nutritional composition of commercially sold food service establishments in order to encourage healthier food choices.

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

- (a) “Food service establishment” refers to an entity that is one of at least twenty (20) entities or more doing business under the same name, regardless of its type of ownership, and selling substantially the same menu items in standard portions. It shall include, but not limited to, chain restaurants, chain coffee shops, bakeries, self-service food locations, such as buffets and salad bars, convenience stores;
- (b) “Food items” refer to ready-to-eat and prepared food or beverage for sale in a restaurant or food service establishment;
- (c) “Food-on-display” refers to food offered for sale that is visible to a customer before making a selection, and needs no further preparation before consumption;
- (d) “Standard menu item” refers to any individual food item or combination of food items that is routinely listed on a menu or menu board, or routinely offered for sale by a restaurant or fast-food chain establishment;
- (e) “Menu” refers to a printed list of food items and their prices posted in a fast-food chain or restaurant as defined in this Act, including fliers for distribution and posts or advertisements on different social media platforms;
- (f) “Menu board” refers to any pictorial display of food items and their prices posted in a fast-food chain or restaurant as defined in this Act, including those found in drive-thrus;
- (g) “Nutritional and calorie information” refers to the total number of calories and nutritional information, which shall be displayed in kilocalories of each menu item on menu and menu boards; and
- (h) “Self-service food” refers to food and beverage that consumers may help themselves to, including food offered for sale at a salad bar, buffet line, cafeteria line.

SEC. 4. *Mandatory Disclosure of Nutritional Information.* – All food service establishments, as defined under this Act, are hereby mandated to disclose the nutritional information, including the total number of calories, of each standard menu item and prominently display these on their menus and menu boards, adjacent to the standard menu item.

The nutritional information shall indicate the amount of each of the following:

- (a) Total calories;
- (b) Total fat;
- (c) Saturated fat;
- (d) Cholesterol;
- (e) Sodium;
- (f) Total carbohydrates;
- (g) Complex carbohydrates;
- (h) Sugars;
- (i) Dietary fiber; and
- (j) Total protein.

Disclosure and display of nutrition information shall not apply to temporary menu items.

SEC. 5. *Calorie Content.* – The disclosure of nutrition content information by food 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 food with fewer than five (5) calories, the declaration may be expressed as zero (0).

SEC. 6. *Nutrition Disclosure Compliance Certificate.* – Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, food service establishments are also directed to apply for and secure a Nutrition Disclosure Compliance Certificate (NDCC) from the Department of Health (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 any food service establishment found to be in violation of this Act.

The failure of any restaurant or food service establishment to secure a NDCC is a ground for suspension or revocation of its license to operate.

SEC. 7. *Penalties.* – A fine of not less than Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php20,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php100,000.00) shall be imposed upon any person operating a food service establishment found to have failed to comply with the mandatory nutrition information disclosures or to have declared false or grossly inaccurate nutrition information regarding the amount of calories or nutrients contained for each standard menu item.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,