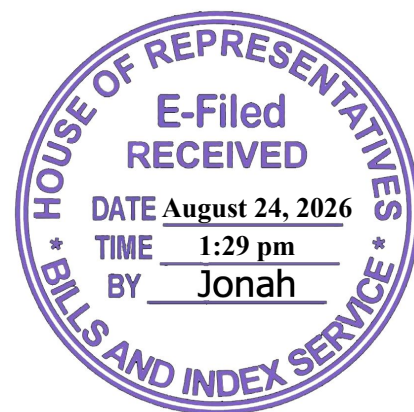


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10867



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State, under Article II, Section 15 of the Constitution, is mandated to protect and promote the right to health of the people. In line with this, the Department of Health issued Administrative Order No. 2014-0030 requiring prepackaged food products to list their ingredients, including allergens, to safeguard consumers. However, this protection remains incomplete, as food served in restaurants, cafeterias, and other establishments is not subject to the same mandatory disclosure, leaving millions of Filipinos vulnerable to accidental allergic reactions.

Food allergies pose a serious and recurring public health concern. Even the smallest serving of an allergen can trigger severe reactions ranging from swollen tissues, vomiting, abdominal cramps, and painful blisters to difficulty breathing, coma, and even death. Studies in the Philippines confirm that food allergies affect a growing number of children and adults, with many cases going unreported due to limited awareness and lack of disclosure mechanisms. These risks are magnified in provinces and rural communities where access to emergency medical care is limited, making prevention through transparency all the more critical.

This bill seeks to institutionalize the duty of food establishments to automatically disclose allergy-causing ingredients in their menu items. By complementing the existing requirement for prepackaged foods, this measure ensures that consumers are protected not only in grocery aisles but also in everyday dining settings. It recognizes that diligence must be shared: while customers have the responsibility to inquire, establishments must carry the equal responsibility to inform.

This measure embodies humane regulation as it seeks to protect vulnerable groups like children, the elderly, and those in marginalized communities, by reducing preventable health risks. It also strengthens trust between consumers and establishments, fostering a safer and more inclusive dining culture across the country.

The institutionalization of allergen disclosure is a simple yet powerful step toward health equity. It ensures that every Filipino, regardless of where they live or what they can afford to eat, enjoys a safer and more dignified dining experience.

It is for these reasons that the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS

Representative, Ang Probinsyano Party-List

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE DISCLOSURE OF FOOD ALLERGENS IN PRODUCTS
OFFERED BY FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 “Food Allergen Disclosure Act of 2026.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and to instill health consciousness among them. To this end, the State affirms its duty to ensure the highest standards of food safety in all establishments engaged in the sale, preparation, and service of food, from manufacturing to distribution and consumption. Recognizing that food allergies and intolerances pose serious and preventable health risks, the State shall mandate transparency and accountability in the disclosure of food allergens, thereby safeguarding consumers from accidental exposure.

In pursuit of inclusive and humane regulation, the State shall ensure that allergen disclosure requirements are applied equitably across urban centers and provincial communities, empowering consumers regardless of location or economic status. This measure complements existing Department of Health issuances on food labeling and extends protection to dining establishments, *carinderias*, cafeterias, canteens, and other food service providers, thereby fostering a culture of health awareness, consumer trust, and community safety.

SECTION 3. *Definitions.* – The following words and phrases when used in this Act shall have the meanings given to them in this Section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

- a) **Food allergen** shall mean any ingredient used in food preparation that is capable of producing an allergic reaction

including but not limited to the eight major allergens recognized globally: milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, and soy. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or the National Nutrition Council may update this list as new allergens are identified.

- b) **Hypoallergenic** shall mean unlikely to cause an allergic reaction and prepared in a manner that minimizes cross-contamination.
- c) **Food establishment** shall mean any establishment engaged, whether primarily or incidentally, in the business of selling food to the general public, such as but not limited to restaurants, canteens, food stalls, etc.

SECTION 4. *List of Common Food Allergens.* - The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), through the Center for Food Regulation and Research, shall create and maintain an inventory of common food allergens and publish the same on its official website. The list shall be updated annually in consultation with medical experts, consumer groups, non-government organizations, and food industry stakeholders. A copy of the said inventory shall be disseminated to establishments applying for a License to Operate (LTO) and to local government units for provincial and barangay-level awareness.

SECTION 5. *Disclosure of Food Allergens.* - Food establishments shall identify food allergens in their offerings, in accordance with the list published by the FDA, and shall make such allergens known to customers by including them in the description of every item on their menu. Disclosure shall be visible at the point of sale, in printed menus, and in online menus or delivery platforms. Establishments shall use standardized allergen icons or labels to ensure accessibility for consumers with limited literacy. Should it be impracticable to print a list of every allergen for every menu item, the establishment shall endeavor to make it known to its customers that such list of allergens shall be disclosed to them upon request.

SECTION 6. *Alternatives.* - Food establishments shall, as far as practicable, provide hypoallergenic substitutes for allergy-causing ingredients in their offerings. Where substitution is not possible, the food establishment shall give its customer the option to have the allergy-causing ingredient removed. In any case, the food establishment shall ensure that they have hypoallergenic offerings at all times. Establishments shall also train staff on allergen handling and cross-contamination prevention, including the use of separate utensils and cooking surfaces.

SECTION 7. *Penalties.* - Food establishments that fail, despite due notice and warning, to comply with the provisions of the present Act shall be fined an amount not less than fifty thousand pesos (PHP 50,000.00) but not more than one hundred thousand pesos (PHP 100,000.00). Repeated

violations of this Act shall be a ground for the cancellation or revocation of the establishment's business permit and/or license to operate.

In cases where a consumer suffers harm due to undisclosed allergens, the establishment shall shoulder the medical expenses incurred as a result of such negligence.

SECTION 8. *Exemptions.* – Exempted from the provisions of this Act are *carinderias*, backyard food stalls, ambulant food vendors, food kiosks, and other similar businesses. However, they are encouraged to voluntarily disclose allergens in their meals and food products.

SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Health, through the Food and Drug Administration, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations required for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act. The IRR shall be drafted in coordination with LGUs, barangay health workers, relevant non-government organizations, and consumer groups, and shall include provisions for public education campaigns on allergen awareness, especially in schools and provincial communities.

SECTION 10. *Appropriations* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged against those authorized in the current and subsequent General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 11. *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 12. *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 13. *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,