

8506

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

May 26, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. ORTIZ, GOTTFRIED -- (at request of the Governor)  
-- read once and referred to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law and the agriculture and markets law, in relation to the posting of calorie content values for food sold by retail food establishments and retail food service operations

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature finds that rates of  
2 obesity in the state of New York have increased to epidemic proportions.  
3 Obesity is associated with numerous health problems, including, but not  
4 limited to, diabetes, heart disease, cancer, osteoarthritis and asthma,  
5 and carries a great public health cost. On average, Americans consume  
6 one-third of their calories from dining away from home or purchasing  
7 prepared meals to bring home, and there is evidence that consumers find  
8 it difficult to estimate the calorie counts of typical restaurant meals.  
9 It is important to ensure that consumers are provided with information  
10 sufficient to allow them to make informed decisions about their dining  
11 choices.

12 S 2. Section 1351 of the public health law is amended to read as  
13 follows:

14 S 1351. Food places; duty to permit inspections. Every owner, opera-  
15 tor, lessor, lessee or person in charge of any hotel, restaurant, dining  
16 room, dining car, drug store, soda fountain, steamboat or other place  
17 engaged in the preparation, sale or service of food for and to the  
18 general public, and every officer or other person in charge of any  
19 public, penal or charitable institution in this state, shall permit the  
20 commissioner or his duly authorized agents or employees to have access  
21 to all parts of any and all of such places herein mentioned wherein food  
22 is stored, prepared or served for the purpose of ascertaining whether  
23 the provisions of sections thirteen hundred fifty to thirteen hundred  
24 fifty-two, inclusive, AND SECTION THIRTEEN HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVEN of this  
25 [chapter] ARTICLE, and the provisions of the sanitary code and  
26 provisions of local ordinances or regulations are being observed.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 S 3. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 1357 to  
2 read as follows:

3 S 1357. RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS; POSTING OF CALORIE CONTENT VALUES.  
4 1. WHENEVER USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS OTHERWISE EXPRESSLY STATED OR  
5 UNLESS THE CONTEXT OR SUBJECT MATTER REQUIRES A DIFFERENT MEANING, THE  
6 FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS HEREINAFTER SET FORTH OR INDI-  
7 CATED:

8 (A) "RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENT" MEANS ANY FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT  
9 OR MOBILE FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT, AS DEFINED BY THE STATE SANITARY  
10 CODE, WHICH IS USED OR OPERATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREPARING AND SERVING  
11 FOOD AT THE RETAIL LEVEL, AND IS ONE OF A GROUP OF FIFTEEN OR MORE  
12 RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS DOING BUSINESS NATIONALLY THAT: (I) OFFER  
13 FOR SALE SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME MENU ITEMS, IN SERVINGS THAT ARE STAND-  
14 ARDIZED FOR PORTION SIZE AND CONTENT; AND (II) OPERATE UNDER COMMON  
15 OWNERSHIP OR CONTROL, OPERATE AS FRANCHISED OUTLETS OF A PARENT BUSI-  
16 NESS, OR DO BUSINESS UNDER THE SAME NAME.

17 (B) "FOOD ITEM" MEANS A FOOD, AS DEFINED BY THE STATE SANITARY CODE,  
18 WHICH IS OFFERED FOR SALE BY A RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENT IN STANDARDIZED  
19 SIZES AND INTENDED FOR INDIVIDUAL PORTION SERVICE.

20 (C) "MENU" MEANS A PRINTED LIST OR PRINTED PICTORIAL DISPLAY OF FOOD  
21 ITEMS AND THEIR PRICES THAT ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE FROM A RETAIL FOOD  
22 ESTABLISHMENT, AND SHALL INCLUDE MENUS DISTRIBUTED OR PROVIDED OUTSIDE  
23 OF THE ESTABLISHMENT.

24 (D) "MENU BOARD" SHALL MEAN ANY LIST OR PICTORIAL DISPLAY OF FOOD  
25 ITEMS AND THEIR PRICES THAT IS POSTED AND VISIBLE: (I) WITHIN A RETAIL  
26 FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT, OR (II) OUTSIDE OF A RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISH-  
27 MENT FOR THE USE OF CUSTOMERS IN ORDERING FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT'S  
28 DRIVE-THROUGH.

29 (E) "MENU ITEM" SHALL MEAN ANY INDIVIDUAL FOOD ITEM, OR COMBINATION OF  
30 FOOD ITEMS, THAT IS LISTED OR DISPLAYED ON A RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENT'S  
31 MENU OR MENU BOARD. THIS TERM DOES NOT INCLUDE: (I) TEMPORARY ITEMS THAT  
32 ARE LISTED ON A MENU OR MENU BOARD FOR LESS THAN THIRTY DAYS IN ONE  
33 CALENDAR YEAR; OR (II) CONDIMENTS AND SIMILAR ITEMS PLACED ON A TABLE OR  
34 COUNTER FOR GENERAL USE OR OTHERWISE PROVIDED WITHOUT CHARGE.

35 (F) "CALORIE CONTENT VALUE" MEANS THE NUMBER OF CALORIES IN A FOOD  
36 ITEM OR MENU ITEM IN THE SIZE AND PORTION NORMALLY OFFERED FOR SALE, AS  
37 DETERMINED PURSUANT TO A METHOD THAT COMPLIES WITH SUBDIVISION FIVE OF  
38 THIS SECTION.

39 (G) "DRIVE-THROUGH" MEANS AN AREA WHERE A CUSTOMER MAY PLACE AN ORDER  
40 FOR AND RECEIVE MENU ITEMS WHILE OCCUPYING A MOTOR VEHICLE.

41 (H) "FOOD ITEM TAG" MEANS A TAG, LABEL OR PLACARD PLACED IN CLOSE  
42 PROXIMITY TO A FOOD ITEM DISPLAYED FOR SALE BY A RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISH-  
43 MENT THAT IDENTIFIES THE ITEM.

44 2. (A) FOR EACH MENU ITEM OFFERED FOR SALE BY A RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISH-  
45 MENT, THE TOTAL CALORIE CONTENT VALUE OF SUCH ITEM AS OFFERED FOR SALE  
46 SHALL BE LISTED ON ALL OF THE ESTABLISHMENT'S MENUS AND MENU BOARDS.  
47 SUCH CALORIE CONTENT VALUE SHALL BE LISTED CLEARLY AND CONSPICUOUSLY,  
48 ADJACENT TO OR IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE APPLICABLE MENU ITEM SO THAT IT  
49 IS CLEARLY ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH ITEM, AND IN A FONT AND FORMAT THAT IS  
50 AT LEAST AS PROMINENT, IN SIZE AND APPEARANCE, AS THAT USED TO POST  
51 EITHER THE NAME OR PRICE OF THE MENU ITEM.

52 (B) CALORIE CONTENT VALUES AT DRIVE-THROUGH WINDOWS SHALL BE DISPLAYED  
53 ON EITHER THE DRIVE-THROUGH MENU BOARD OR A STANCHION, ADJACENT TO SUCH  
54 MENU BOARD, WHICH IS VISIBLE TO CUSTOMERS AT OR PRIOR TO THE POINT OF  
55 ORDERING, SO LONG AS THE CALORIE CONTENT VALUE OF EACH MENU ITEM IS  
56 LISTED CLEARLY AND CONSPICUOUSLY, ADJACENT TO OR IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO

1 THE APPLICABLE MENU ITEM SO THAT IT IS CLEARLY ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH  
2 ITEM, AND IN A FONT AND FORMAT THAT IS AT LEAST AS PROMINENT, IN SIZE  
3 AND APPEARANCE, AS THAT USED TO POST EITHER THE NAME OR PRICE OF THE  
4 MENU ITEM ON THE MENU BOARD.

5 (C) FOR MENU ITEMS OFFERED FOR SALE IN DIFFERENT FLAVORS OR VARIETIES,  
6 THE RANGE OF CALORIE CONTENT VALUES SHOWING THE MINIMUM TO MAXIMUM  
7 NUMBERS OF CALORIES FOR ALL FLAVORS AND VARIETIES OF THAT ITEM SHALL BE  
8 LISTED FOR EACH SIZE OFFERED FOR SALE ON MENUS AND MENU BOARDS.

9 (D) FOR COMBINATIONS OF DIFFERENT FOOD ITEMS LISTED OR PICTURED AS A  
10 SINGLE MENU ITEM, THE RANGE OF CALORIE CONTENT VALUES SHOWING THE MINI-  
11 MUM TO MAXIMUM NUMBERS OF CALORIES FOR ALL COMBINATIONS OF THAT MENU  
12 ITEM SHALL BE LISTED ON MENUS AND MENU BOARDS. IF THERE IS ONLY ONE  
13 POSSIBLE CALORIE TOTAL FOR THE COMBINATION, THEN THAT TOTAL SHALL BE  
14 LISTED ON MENUS AND MENU BOARDS.

15 (E) WHEN A FOOD ITEM IS DISPLAYED FOR SALE WITH A FOOD ITEM TAG, SUCH  
16 FOOD ITEM TAG SHALL INCLUDE THE CALORIE CONTENT VALUE FOR THAT FOOD ITEM  
17 IN A FONT AND FORMAT THAT IS AT LEAST AS PROMINENT, IN SIZE AND APPEAR-  
18 ANCE, AS THAT USED TO IDENTIFY THE ITEM.

19 (F) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS SUBDIVISION, THE CALO-  
20 RIE CONTENT VALUE OF AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE OFFERED FOR SALE BY A RETAIL  
21 FOOD ESTABLISHMENT SHALL BE LISTED AS REQUIRED BY PARAGRAPH (B) OF  
22 SUBDIVISION THREE OF THIS SECTION.

23 3. (A) CALORIE CONTENT VALUES (IN KCAL) REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION SHALL  
24 BE BASED UPON A VERIFIABLE ANALYSIS OF A FOOD OR MENU ITEM, WHICH MAY  
25 INCLUDE THE USE OF NUTRIENT DATABASES, LABORATORY TESTING, OR OTHER  
26 RELIABLE METHODS OF ANALYSIS, AND SHALL BE ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST TEN  
27 CALORIES FOR CALORIE CONTENT VALUES ABOVE FIFTY CALORIES AND TO THE  
28 NEAREST FIVE CALORIES FOR CALORIE CONTENT VALUES OF FIFTY CALORIES AND  
29 BELOW.

30 (B) IN LIEU OF LISTING A CALORIE CONTENT VALUE FOR EACH ALCOHOLIC  
31 BEVERAGE OFFERED FOR SALE, A RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENT MAY LIST AN AVER-  
32 AGE CALORIE CONTENT VALUE PER STANDARD SERVING FOR EACH TYPE OF ALCOHOL-  
33 IC BEVERAGE OFFERED FOR SALE BY THE ESTABLISHMENT, ACCORDING TO REGU-  
34 LATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

35 4. DOCUMENTATION ESTABLISHING THE RESULTS OF ANY ANALYSIS CONDUCTED  
36 PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBDIVISION THREE OF THIS SECTION FOR A  
37 FOOD OR MENU ITEM SHALL BE MAINTAINED BY THE ESTABLISHMENT FOR AS LONG  
38 AS THAT ITEM IS OFFERED FOR SALE AND FOR SUCH ADDITIONAL TIME AS MAY BE  
39 DEFINED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND IN THE MANNER SPECIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

40 5. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL PRECLUDE A RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENT  
41 FROM PROVIDING NUTRITION INFORMATION IN ADDITION TO THAT REQUIRED UNDER  
42 THIS SECTION.

43 6. A RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENT VIOLATES THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION  
44 IF THE ESTABLISHMENT: (A) FAILS TO LIST CALORIE CONTENT VALUES AS  
45 REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION; (B) FAILS TO OBTAIN CALORIE CONTENT VALUE  
46 ANALYSES AND MAINTAIN DOCUMENTATION OF SUCH ANALYSES AS REQUIRED BY THIS  
47 SECTION; OR (C) KNOWINGLY OR RECKLESSLY LISTS ON MENUS, MENU BOARDS OR  
48 FOOD ITEM TAGS CALORIE CONTENT VALUES THAT ARE MATERIALLY INCORRECT OR  
49 MISLEADING.

50 7. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT A MUNICI-  
51 PALITY OR OTHER UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FROM ENACTING, AMENDING, MODI-  
52 FYING OR REPEALING A LOCAL LAW, ORDINANCE, OR RESOLUTION THAT IMPOSES  
53 STRICTER CALORIE OR MORE INCLUSIVE NUTRIENT LISTING OR POSTING REQUIRE-  
54 MENTS ON RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS UNDER ITS JURISDICTION, PROVIDED  
55 THAT THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION ARE MET.

1 S 4. Section 500 of the agriculture and markets law is amended by  
2 adding a new subdivision 7 to read as follows:

3 7. (A) WHENEVER USED IN THIS SUBDIVISION, UNLESS OTHERWISE EXPRESSLY  
4 STATED OR UNLESS THE CONTEXT OR SUBJECT MATTER REQUIRES A DIFFERENT  
5 MEANING, THE FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS HEREINAFTER SET  
6 FORTH OR INDICATED:

7 (I) "RETAIL FOOD SERVICE OPERATION" MEANS AN AREA OF A RETAIL FOOD  
8 STORE, AS DEFINED BY PARAGRAPH (B) OF SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION:

9 (A) WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED FOR SALE AT THE RETAIL LEVEL IN READY-TO-EAT,  
10 INDIVIDUAL PORTIONS FOR CONSUMPTION ON OR OFF THE PREMISES; (B) WHICH IS  
11 LOCATED WITHIN A RETAIL FOOD STORE THAT IS ONE OF A GROUP OF FIFTEEN OR  
12 MORE RETAIL FOOD STORES DOING BUSINESS NATIONALLY AND OPERATING UNDER  
13 COMMON OWNERSHIP OR CONTROL, OPERATING AS FRANCHISED OUTLETS OF A PARENT  
14 BUSINESS, OR DOING BUSINESS UNDER THE SAME NAME; AND (C) WHICH OFFERS  
15 SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME MENU ITEMS AS ARE OFFERED IN SIMILAR AREAS OF AT  
16 LEAST FOURTEEN OTHER RETAIL FOOD STORES CONTAINED IN THE GROUP DESCRIBED  
17 IN CLAUSE (B) OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH.

18 (II) "FOOD ITEM" MEANS A FOOD, AS DEFINED BY SECTION ONE HUNDRED NINE-  
19 TY-EIGHT OF THIS CHAPTER, WHICH IS OFFERED FOR SALE BY A RETAIL FOOD  
20 SERVICE OPERATION IN STANDARDIZED SIZES AND INTENDED FOR INDIVIDUAL  
21 PORTION SERVICE.

22 (III) "MENU" MEANS A PRINTED LIST OR PRINTED PICTORIAL DISPLAY OF FOOD  
23 ITEMS AND THEIR PRICES THAT ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE FROM A RETAIL FOOD  
24 ESTABLISHMENT, AND SHALL INCLUDE MENUS DISTRIBUTED OR PROVIDED OUTSIDE  
25 OF THE ESTABLISHMENT.

26 (IV) "MENU BOARD" SHALL MEAN ANY LIST OR PICTORIAL DISPLAY OF FOOD  
27 ITEMS AND THEIR PRICES THAT IS POSTED AND VISIBLE WITHIN A RETAIL FOOD  
28 SERVICE OPERATION.

29 (V) "MENU ITEM" SHALL MEAN ANY INDIVIDUAL FOOD ITEM, OR COMBINATION OF  
30 FOOD ITEMS, THAT IS LISTED OR DISPLAYED ON A RETAIL FOOD SERVICE OPER-  
31 ATION'S MENU OR MENU BOARD. THIS TERM DOES NOT INCLUDE: (A) TEMPORARY  
32 ITEMS THAT ARE LISTED ON A MENU OR MENU BOARD FOR LESS THAN THIRTY DAYS  
33 IN ONE CALENDAR YEAR; OR (B) CONDIMENTS AND SIMILAR ITEMS PLACED ON A  
34 TABLE OR COUNTER FOR GENERAL USE OR OTHERWISE PROVIDED WITHOUT CHARGE.

35 (VI) "CALORIE CONTENT VALUE" MEANS THE NUMBER OF CALORIES IN A FOOD  
36 ITEM OR MENU ITEM IN THE SIZE AND PORTION NORMALLY OFFERED FOR SALE, AS  
37 DETERMINED PURSUANT TO A METHOD THAT COMPLIES WITH PARAGRAPH (E) OF THIS  
38 SUBDIVISION.

39 (VII) "FOOD ITEM TAG" MEANS A TAG, LABEL OR PLACARD PLACED IN CLOSE  
40 PROXIMITY TO A FOOD ITEM DISPLAYED FOR SALE BY A RETAIL FOOD SERVICE  
41 OPERATION THAT IDENTIFIES THE ITEM.

42 (B) (I) FOR EACH MENU ITEM OFFERED FOR SALE BY A RETAIL FOOD SERVICE  
43 OPERATION, THE TOTAL CALORIE CONTENT VALUE OF SUCH ITEM AS OFFERED FOR  
44 SALE SHALL BE LISTED ON ALL OF THE OPERATION'S MENUS AND MENU BOARDS.  
45 SUCH CALORIE CONTENT VALUE SHALL BE LISTED CLEARLY AND CONSPICUOUSLY,  
46 ADJACENT TO OR IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE APPLICABLE MENU ITEM SO THAT IT  
47 IS CLEARLY ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH ITEM, AND IN A FONT AND FORMAT THAT IS  
48 AT LEAST AS PROMINENT, IN SIZE AND APPEARANCE, AS THAT USED TO POST  
49 EITHER THE NAME OR PRICE OF THE MENU ITEM.

50 (II) FOR MENU ITEMS OFFERED FOR SALE IN DIFFERENT FLAVORS OR VARIE-  
51 TIES, THE RANGE OF CALORIE CONTENT VALUES SHOWING THE MINIMUM TO MAXIMUM  
52 NUMBERS OF CALORIES FOR ALL FLAVORS AND VARIETIES OF THAT ITEM SHALL BE  
53 LISTED FOR EACH SIZE OFFERED FOR SALE ON MENUS AND MENU BOARDS.

54 (III) FOR COMBINATIONS OF DIFFERENT FOOD ITEMS LISTED OR PICTURED AS A  
55 SINGLE MENU ITEM, THE RANGE OF CALORIE CONTENT VALUES SHOWING THE MINI-  
56 MUM TO MAXIMUM NUMBERS OF CALORIES FOR ALL COMBINATIONS OF THAT MENU

1 ITEM SHALL BE LISTED ON MENUS AND MENU BOARDS. IF THERE IS ONLY ONE  
2 POSSIBLE CALORIE TOTAL FOR THE COMBINATION, THEN THAT TOTAL SHALL BE  
3 LISTED ON MENUS AND MENU BOARDS.

4 (IV) WHEN A FOOD ITEM IS DISPLAYED FOR SALE WITH A FOOD ITEM TAG, SUCH  
5 FOOD ITEM TAG SHALL INCLUDE THE CALORIE CONTENT VALUE FOR THAT FOOD ITEM  
6 IN A FONT AND FORMAT THAT IS AT LEAST AS PROMINENT, IN SIZE AND APPEAR-  
7 ANCE, AS THAT USED TO IDENTIFY THE ITEM.

8 (C) CALORIE CONTENT VALUES (IN KCAL) REQUIRED BY THIS SUBDIVISION  
9 SHALL BE BASED UPON A VERIFIABLE ANALYSIS OF A FOOD OR MENU ITEM, WHICH  
10 MAY INCLUDE THE USE OF NUTRIENT DATABASES, LABORATORY TESTING, OR OTHER  
11 RELIABLE METHODS OF ANALYSIS, AND SHALL BE ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST TEN  
12 CALORIES FOR CALORIE CONTENT VALUES ABOVE FIFTY CALORIES AND TO THE  
13 NEAREST FIVE CALORIES FOR CALORIE CONTENT VALUES OF FIFTY CALORIES AND  
14 BELOW.

15 (D) DOCUMENTATION ESTABLISHING THE RESULTS OF ANY ANALYSIS CONDUCTED  
16 PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (C) OF THIS SUBDIVISION FOR A FOOD OR MENU ITEM  
17 SHALL BE MAINTAINED BY THE RETAIL FOOD SERVICE OPERATION FOR AS LONG AS  
18 THAT ITEM IS OFFERED FOR SALE AND FOR SUCH ADDITIONAL TIME AS MAY BE  
19 DEFINED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND IN THE MANNER SPECIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

20 (E) NOTHING IN THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL PRECLUDE A RETAIL FOOD SERVICE  
21 OPERATION FROM PROVIDING NUTRITION INFORMATION IN ADDITION TO THAT  
22 REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBDIVISION.

23 (F) A RETAIL FOOD SERVICE OPERATION VIOLATES THE PROVISIONS OF THIS  
24 SUBDIVISION IF THE OPERATION: (I) FAILS TO POST CALORIE CONTENT VALUES  
25 AS REQUIRED BY THIS SUBDIVISION; (II) FAILS TO OBTAIN CALORIE CONTENT  
26 VALUE ANALYSES AND MAINTAIN DOCUMENTATION OF SUCH ANALYSES AS REQUIRED  
27 BY THIS SUBDIVISION; OR (III) KNOWINGLY OR RECKLESSLY LISTS ON MENUS,  
28 MENU BOARDS OR FOOD ITEM TAGS CALORIE CONTENT VALUES THAT ARE MATERIALLY  
29 INCORRECT OR MISLEADING.

30 S 5. This act shall take effect January 1, 2010, except that the  
31 commissioner of health and the commissioner of agriculture and markets  
32 are authorized to adopt, amend or repeal, on an emergency basis if  
33 necessary, any regulation necessary to implement any provision of this  
34 act on its effective date.