

STATE OF NEW YORK

2532--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 21, 2021

Introduced by Sens. RIVERA, BIAGGI, LIU -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health -- recommitted to the Committee on Health in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to requiring chain restaurants to label menu items that have a high content of sodium

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section
2 1356 to read as follows:

3 § 1356. Chain restaurants; sodium content of menu items. 1. Defi-
4 nitions. For purposes of this section the following terms shall have the
5 following meanings:

6 a. "Chain restaurant" means a food service establishment that is part
7 of a chain with fifteen or more locations within the state doing busi-
8 ness under the same name, regardless of the type of ownership of the
9 locations, and offering for sale substantially similar menu items.

10 b. "Daily value" means the daily reference value used by the United
11 States Food and Drug Administration in calculating the percent daily
12 value for nutrition information provided on food labels.

13 c. "Food service establishment" means a place where food is
14 prepared and intended for individual portion service and includes the
15 site at which the individual portions are provided, whether consumption
16 occurs on or off the premises. The term excludes food processing
17 establishments, retail food stores, private homes where food is prepared
18 or served for family consumption, and food service operations where a
19 distinct group mutually provides, prepares, serves and consumes the
20 food such as "covered-dish supper" limited to a congregation,
21 club or fraternal organization.

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

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1 d. "Menu or menu board" means the primary writing of a food service
2 establishment from which a customer makes an order selection, including,
3 but not limited to, breakfast, lunch, and dinner menus; dessert menus;
4 beverage menus; children's menus; other specialty menus; electronic
5 menus; and menus on the internet.

6 e. "Standard menu item" means a food or beverage item that is listed
7 on a menu or menu board, excluding temporary menu items appearing on the
8 menu for less than sixty days per calendar year.

9 2. Industry guidance. Within one year of the effective date of this
10 section, the department shall publish guidance explaining the require-
11 ments of this section and how businesses can comply.

12 3. Sodium warning icon. No later than one year after the effective
13 date of this section, the department shall develop an icon with accompa-
14 nying text that shall be displayed adjacent to the name of any standard
15 menu item that exceeds the daily value for sodium. Beginning two years
16 after the effective date of this section any chain restaurant operating
17 within the state and not otherwise exempted under subdivision seven of
18 this section shall display on menus or menu boards:

19 a. The sodium warning icon and accompanying text promulgated by the
20 department pursuant to this subdivision, at a height no smaller than the
21 largest letter in the name of the item; and

22 b. The following factual statement explaining the sodium warning icon:
23 "Warning (insert icon image here) indicates that the sodium (salt)
24 content of this item may exceed half the total daily recommended limit.
25 Regularly eating more than the daily recommended limit can increase
26 blood pressure and risk of heart disease and stroke."

27 4. Report required. No later than six years after the effective date
28 of this section, the department shall issue a report reviewing evidence
29 of the impact of this section on menu item reformulation and consumer
30 behavior, and recommend additional nutrients that should be considered
31 for menu warning icons.

32 5. Violations. Any chain restaurant that violates the provisions of
33 this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than two
34 hundred fifty dollars per day for each location not in compliance.

35 6. Exemptions. The sodium warning icon required pursuant to subdivi-
36 sion three of this section shall not be required to be displayed next to
37 a menu item that is already labeled with a sodium icon equal or greater
38 in size and similar in general appearance, when such icon is required
39 pursuant to a rule, regulation, ordinance, local law, order or policy
40 issued by another jurisdiction having the same or substantially similar
41 effect as determined by the commissioner. Food service establishments
42 exempted from the sodium warning labeling requirement by this subdivi-
43 sion shall be used in determining if a particular food service estab-
44 lishment is a chain restaurant.

45 § 2. Severability. If any provision of this act, or any application of
46 any provision of this act, is held to be invalid, or to violate or be
47 inconsistent with any federal law or regulation, that shall not affect
48 the validity or effectiveness of any other provision of this act, or of
49 any other application of any provision of this act, which can be given
50 effect without that provision or application; and to that end, the
51 provisions and applications of this act are severable.

52 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.