

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

13 JUL -8 P12 :04

SENATE
S. No. 583

RECEIVED BY: *ju*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 11, Section 15, provides that "the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

There is no law requiring manufacturers, packers, or distributors to indicate the nutritional value of food products on their labels.

This bill seeks to promote health consciousness among the public through proper labeling of nutritional contents in food products.¹

acs *Miriam Defensor Santiago*
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

¹ This bill was originally filed during the Fourteenth Congress.



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1 AN ACT
2 PRESCRIBING NUTRITION LABELING FOR FOOD

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

3 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Nutrition Labeling Act."

4 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 ensure that consumers have access to accurate information as to the nutritional contents of food
6 and food products to facilitate value comparisons and promote a free market economy.

7 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* -As used in this Act, the term:

8 (A) "Label" means any written, printed, or graphic matter affixed to any consumer
9 commodity or affixed to or appearing upon a package containing any consumer commodity.

10 (B) "Package" means any container or wrapping in which any consumer commodity
11 is enclosed for use in the delivery or display of that consumer commodity to retail purchasers,
12 but does not include -

13 (1) Shipping containers or wrappings used solely for the transportation of any
14 consumer commodity in bulk or in quantity to manufacturers, packers, or
15 processors, or to wholesale or retail distributors thereof, or

16 (2) Shipping containers or outer wrappings used by retailers to ship and deliver any
17 commodity to retail customers if such containers and wrappings bear no printed
18 matter pertaining to any particular commodity.

1 (C) "Food" means any material, usually of plant or animal origin, containing or
2 consisting of essential body nutrients that must be taken in or assimilated by a person as
3 nourishment to life and growth.

4 SECTION 4. *Requirements of Labeling.* -

5 (A) The commodity shall bear a label specifying the identity of the commodity and
6 the name and place of business of the manufacturer, packer or distributor;

7 (B) The separate label statement of nutritional content shall appear in conspicuous
8 and easily legible type in distinct contrast (by topography, layout, color, embossing, or molding
9 with other matter on the package);

10 (C) The label shall also contain the following:

11 (1) The number of servings or other units of measure per container;

12 (2) The total number of calories derived from any source, and derived from the total
13 fat; and

14 (3) The amount of the following nutrients in each serving size or other unit of
15 measurement of the food:

16 (a) Total fat;

17 (b) Saturated fat;

18 (c) Cholesterol;

19 (d) Sodium;

20 (e) Total Carbohydrates;

21 (f) Complex Carbohydrates;

22 (g) Sugars;

23 (h) Dietary Fiber; and

24 (i) Total Protein

25 (4) Any vitamin, mineral, or other nutrient required to be placed on the label or
26 labeling of food if it is determined that such information will assist consumers in
27 maintaining healthy dietary practices.

1 (D) If a food contains insignificant amounts, as determined by the Bureau of Food and
2 Drugs, of all the nutrients required to be listed in the label or labeling of food, or advertising of
3 such shall not apply to such food if the label, labeling, or advertising of such food does not make
4 any claim with respect to nutritive value of such food.

5 (E) No packaged consumer commodity shall be distributed or caused to be distributed
6 in commerce unless it conforms to the regulations set by this Act and established by the Bureau
7 of Food and Drugs.

8 SECTION 5. *Punishable Acts.* –

9 (A) It shall be unlawful for any person engaged in the packaging or labeling of any
10 consumer commodity for distribution in commerce of any such commodity if such commodity is
11 contained in a package, or if there is affixed to that commodity a label, which does not conform
12 to the provisions of this Act and of regulations promulgated under the authority of this Act.

13 (B) This prohibition shall not apply to persons engaged in the business as wholesale
14 or retail distributors of consumer commodities except to the extent that such persons are engaged
15 in the packaging or labeling of such commodities, or prescribe or specify by any means the
16 manner in which such commodities are packaged or labeled.

17 SECTION 6. *Consumer Education.* - The Secretary of Department of Health, with the
18 Bureau of Food and Drugs shall carry out activities which educate consumers about –

19 (A) The availability of nutrition information in the label or labeling of food; and

20 (B) The importance of the information in maintaining healthy dietary practices.

21

22 SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
23 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law of the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
24 valid and subsisting.

1 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
2 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent
3 with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

4 SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,