

---

SENATE BILL 6786

---

State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session

By Senators Franklin, Holmquist, Kastama, and Marr

Read first time 01/23/08. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1            AN ACT Relating to creating a task force on menu labeling; creating  
2 new sections; and providing an expiration date.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that people in this  
5 country spend almost half of their food dollars eating away from home.  
6 Food consumed in restaurants is generally higher in calories and  
7 saturated fat than food prepared at home. It is further found that in  
8 Washington state the rate of chronic diseases such as obesity,  
9 diabetes, and heart disease is increasing in adults and children.

10           The legislature declares there is growing concern that people do  
11 not know the nutritional contents of the food they consume when they  
12 eat out at restaurants. In Washington state there are several  
13 different efforts to require restaurants to provide labels on menus  
14 that describe such things as calories, fats, sodium, and other  
15 nutritional information. However, little information exists as to the  
16 health effectiveness of these efforts and the impact on the restaurant  
17 industry.

1           NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.** (1)(a) A legislative task force on menu  
2 labeling is established, with members as provided in this subsection.

3           (i) The president of the senate shall appoint one member from each  
4 of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

5           (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one  
6 member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of  
7 representatives.

8           (b) The task force shall choose its chair from among its membership  
9 at its first meeting.

10          (2) The task force must study current efforts on menu labeling  
11 around the state, including but not limited to comparative approaches  
12 by county, systems for estimating actual nutritional information,  
13 health impacts of menu labeling, cost and impact to the restaurant  
14 industry, and alternatives to current approaches. The task force must  
15 also review what other states are doing on the issue.

16          (3) Staff support for the task force must be provided by the senate  
17 committee services and the house of representatives office of program  
18 research.

19          (4) Legislative members of the task force must be reimbursed for  
20 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120.

21          (5) The expenses of the task force must be paid jointly by the  
22 senate and the house of representatives. Task force expenditures are  
23 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee  
24 and the house of representatives executive rules committee, or their  
25 successor committees.

26          (6) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to  
27 the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2008, with  
28 recommendations for providing nutritional information to consumers in  
29 restaurant settings.

30          (7) This section expires June 30, 2009.

--- END ---