

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 2017

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## AN ACT

To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve and clarify certain disclosure requirements for restaurants and similar retail food establishments, and to amend the authority to bring proceedings under section 403A.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Common Sense Nutri-  
3 tion Disclosure Act of 2015”.

4 **SEC. 2. AMENDING CERTAIN DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS**  
5 **FOR RESTAURANTS AND SIMILAR RETAIL**  
6 **FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 403(q)(5)(H) of the Fed-  
8 eral Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C.  
9 343(q)(5)(H)) is amended—

10 (1) in subclause (ii)—

11 (A) in item (I)(aa), by striking “the num-  
12 ber of calories contained in the standard menu  
13 item, as usually prepared and offered for sale”  
14 and inserting “the number of calories contained  
15 in the whole standard menu item, or the num-  
16 ber of servings (as reasonably determined by  
17 the restaurant or similar retail food establish-  
18 ment) and number of calories per serving, or  
19 the number of calories per the common unit di-  
20 vision of the standard menu item, such as for  
21 a multiserving item that is typically divided be-  
22 fore presentation to the consumer”;

23 (B) in item (II)(aa), by striking “the num-  
24 ber of calories contained in the standard menu  
25 item, as usually prepared and offered for sale”  
26 and inserting “the number of calories contained

1 in the whole standard menu item, or the num-  
2 ber of servings (as reasonably determined by  
3 the restaurant or similar retail food establish-  
4 ment) and number of calories per serving, or  
5 the number of calories per the common unit di-  
6 vision of the standard menu item, such as for  
7 a multiserving item that is typically divided be-  
8 fore presentation to the consumer”; and

9 (C) by adding at the end the following  
10 flush text:

11 “In the case of restaurants or similar retail food es-  
12 tablishments where the majority of orders are placed  
13 by customers who are off-premises at the time such  
14 order is placed, the information required to be dis-  
15 closed under items (I) through (IV) may be provided  
16 by a remote-access menu (such as a menu available  
17 on the Internet) as the sole method of disclosure in-  
18 stead of on-premises writings.”;

19 (2) in subclause (iii)—

20 (A) by inserting “either” after “a res-  
21 taurant or similar retail food establishment  
22 shall”; and

23 (B) by inserting “or comply with subclause  
24 (ii)” after “per serving”;

25 (3) in subclause (iv)—

1 (A) by striking “For the purposes of this  
2 clause” and inserting the following:

3 “(I) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of  
4 this clause”;

5 (B) by striking “and other reasonable  
6 means” and inserting “or other reasonable  
7 means”; and

8 (C) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(II) PERMISSIBLE VARIATION.—If the  
10 restaurant or similar food establishment uses  
11 such means as the basis for its nutrient content  
12 disclosures, such disclosures shall be treated as  
13 having a reasonable basis even if such disclo-  
14 sures vary from actual nutrient content, includ-  
15 ing but not limited to variations in serving size,  
16 inadvertent human error in formulation or  
17 preparation of menu items, variations in ingre-  
18 dients, or other reasonable variations.”;

19 (4) by amending subclause (v) to read as fol-  
20 lows:

21 “(v) MENU VARIABILITY AND COMBINATION  
22 MEALS.—The Secretary shall establish by regulation  
23 standards for determining and disclosing the nutri-  
24 ent content for standard menu items that come in  
25 different flavors, varieties, or combinations, but

1 which are listed as a single menu item, such as soft  
2 drinks, ice cream, pizza, doughnuts, or children’s  
3 combination meals. Such standards shall allow a res-  
4 taurant or similar retail food establishment to  
5 choose whether to determine and disclose such con-  
6 tent for the whole standard menu item, for a serving  
7 or common unit division thereof, or for a serving or  
8 common unit division thereof accompanied by the  
9 number of servings or common unit divisions in the  
10 whole standard menu item. Such standards shall  
11 allow a restaurant or similar retail food establish-  
12 ment to determine and disclose such content by  
13 using any of the following methods: ranges, aver-  
14 ages, individual labeling of flavors or components, or  
15 labeling of one preset standard build. In addition to  
16 such methods, the Secretary may allow the use of  
17 other methods, to be determined by the Secretary,  
18 for which there is a reasonable basis (as such term  
19 is defined in subclause (iv)(II)).”;

20 (5) in subclause (x)—

21 (A) by striking “Not later than 1 year  
22 after the date of enactment of this clause, the  
23 Secretary shall promulgate proposed regulations  
24 to carry out this clause.” and inserting “Not  
25 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of

1 the Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act of  
2 2015, the Secretary shall issue proposed regula-  
3 tions to carry out this clause, as amended by  
4 such Act. Any final regulations that are pro-  
5 mulgated pursuant to the Common Sense Nu-  
6 trition Disclosure Act of 2015, and any final  
7 regulations that were promulgated pursuant to  
8 this clause before the date of enactment of the  
9 Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act of  
10 2015, shall not take effect earlier than 2 years  
11 after the promulgation of final regulations pur-  
12 suant to the Common Sense Nutrition Disclo-  
13 sure Act of 2015.”; and

14 (B) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(IV) CERTIFICATIONS.—Restaurants and  
16 similar retail food establishments shall not be  
17 required to provide certifications or similar  
18 signed statements relating to compliance with  
19 the requirements of this clause.”;

20 (6) by amending subclause (xi) to read as fol-  
21 lows:

22 “(xi) DEFINITIONS.—In this clause:

23 “(I) MENU; MENU BOARD.—The term  
24 ‘menu’ or ‘menu board’ means the one listing of  
25 items which the restaurant or similar retail food

1 establishment reasonably believes to be, and  
2 designates as, the primary listing from which  
3 customers make a selection in placing an order.  
4 The ability to order from an advertisement,  
5 coupon, flyer, window display, packaging, social  
6 media, or other similar writing does not make  
7 the writing a menu or menu board.

8 “(II) PRESET STANDARD BUILD.—The  
9 term ‘preset standard build’ means the finished  
10 version of a menu item most commonly ordered  
11 by consumers.

12 “(III) STANDARD MENU ITEM.—The term  
13 ‘standard menu item’ means a food item of the  
14 type described in subclause (i) or (ii) of sub-  
15 paragraph (5)(A) with the same recipe prepared  
16 in substantially the same way with substantially  
17 the same food components that—

18 “(aa) is routinely included on a menu  
19 or menu board or routinely offered as a  
20 self-service food or food on display at 20 or  
21 more locations doing business under the  
22 same name; and

23 “(bb) is not a food referenced in sub-  
24 clause (vii).”; and

25 (7) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(xii) OPPORTUNITY TO CORRECT VIOLA-  
2           TIONS.—Any restaurant or similar retail food estab-  
3           lishment that the Secretary determines is in viola-  
4           tion of this clause shall have 90 days after receiving  
5           notification of the violation to correct the violation.  
6           The Secretary shall take no enforcement action, in-  
7           cluding the issuance of any public letter, for viola-  
8           tions that are corrected within such 90-day period.”.

9           (b) NATIONAL UNIFORMITY.—Section 403A(b) of the  
10          Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 343–  
11          1(b)) is amended by striking “may exempt from sub-  
12          section (a)” and inserting “may exempt from subsection  
13          (a) (other than subsection (a)(4))”.

14          **SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES ARISING**  
15    **FROM NONCOMPLIANCE WITH NUTRITION**  
16    **LABELING REQUIREMENTS.**

17          Section 403(q)(5)(H) of the Federal Food, Drug, and  
18          Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 343(q)(5)(H)), as amended by  
19          section 2, is further amended by adding at the end the  
20          following:

21                          “(xiii) LIMITATION ON LIABILITY.—A res-  
22                          taurant or similar retail food establishment shall not  
23                          be liable in any civil action in Federal or State court  
24                          (other than an action brought by the United States



1 or a State) for any claims arising out of an alleged  
2 violation of—

3 “(I) this clause; or

4 “(II) any State law permitted under sec-  
5 tion 403A(a)(4).”.

Passed the House of Representatives February 12,  
2016.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

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