



Legislation Text

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Proposed Int. No. 196-A

By Council Members Feliz, Schulman, Cabán, Marte, Joseph, Louis, Brooks-Powers and Lee

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to modifying the sodium warning at chain restaurants.

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 1 of title 17 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 17-199.18.1 to read as follows:

17-199.18.1 Sodium notifications. a. Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Covered establishment. The term "covered establishment" means any food service establishment inspected pursuant to the restaurant grading program established pursuant to subdivision a of section 81.51 of the New York city health code that is part of a chain with 15 or more locations doing business under the same name and offering for sale substantially the same food items.

Food service establishment. The term "food service establishment" has the same meaning as in section 81.03 of the New York city health code.

Icon. The term "icon" means a triangular warning symbol, displayed in a conspicuous red color, with the words HIGH SODIUM in capital letters, bold typeface, and red coloring displayed adjacent to or directly below the triangular symbol.

Menu or menu board. The term "menu or menu board" has the same meaning as in section 81.49 of the New York city health code.

Point of purchase means any place where a customer may order food within an establishment.

b. Warning statement. No later than 6 months after the effective date of the local law that added this section, the department shall issue a rule designating an icon comprised of a red and white equilateral triangle to be displayed in a clear and conspicuous manner on (i) menus or menu boards adjacent to the listed food items and (ii) on a tag next to any food item on display, on such food items that contain per discrete serving unit more than or equal to 1,800 milligrams of sodium. Such rule shall also provide a factual warning statement about high sodium intake which shall state that the icon “indicates that the sodium (salt) content of this item is higher than 1,800 mg. High sodium intake can increase blood pressure and risk of heart disease and stroke.”

c. No later than 6 months after the department issues the rule required pursuant to subdivision b of this section, a covered establishment shall, for any food item that contains per discrete serving unit more than or equal to 1,800 milligrams of sodium, in accordance with rules promulgated by the department:

1. Post a clearly visible icon on a menu or menu board next to any such food item wherever such item appears, or on a tag next to any such food item on display; and

2. Post the factual warning statement required pursuant to subdivision b of this section prominently and conspicuously at the point of purchase.

d. Any covered establishment that violates any of the provisions of this section shall be liable for a civil penalty of \$1000 for a violation thereof.

e. No later than three months after the department issues the rule required by subdivision b of this section, the department shall conduct public outreach to educate covered establishments about the requirements of this local law.

f. Nothing in this local law prohibits the department from requiring an icon or warning statement regarding additional foods, ingredients, or nutrients of concern.

§ 2. This local law takes effect 90 days after it becomes law.

LH/SOS

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