

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 391

H.P. 311

House of Representatives, January 30, 2003

**An Act To Provide Consumers at Chain Restaurants with Accurate,
Accessible Nutrition Information**

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative FAIRCLOTH of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Senator BROMLEY of Cumberland and
Representatives: MILLS of Cornville, NORTON of Bangor, O'BRIEN of Lewiston, SMITH of
Monmouth, SULLIVAN of Biddeford, Senators: HALL of Lincoln, SHOREY of Washington.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

4 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §2502** is enacted to read:

6 **§2502. Nutrition information**

8 Beginning July 1, 2004, a restaurant, which for the purposes
10 of this section means a restaurant licensed as an eating
12 establishment under chapter 562, that is identified with a
14 restaurant chain having 20 or more locations under the same name
nationally, regardless of the type of ownership of the restaurant
locations, shall provide nutrition information for all food and
drink items sold in the eating establishment as follows.

16 1. **Menu boards.** Caloric information must be provided on
18 menu boards in restaurants in which menu boards are displayed.
20 The size and arrangement and typeface of the caloric information
must be similar to and as easy to read as other menu board
information, and the nutrition information must be displayed
adjacent to the listing of the food item.

22 2. **Menus.** The information must be provided on menus in
24 restaurants in which menus are used. The size and arrangement
26 and typeface of the nutrition information must be similar in size
28 of type-face to other information about each menu item. The
30 nutrition information must be similar to the categories of
nutrition information provided on packaged foods sold in grocery
stores and must be displayed adjacent to the listing of the food
item.

32 3. **Packaging.** The information must be provided on wrappers
34 and boxes used to deliver particular items of food and drink to
36 customers. The size and arrangement and typeface of the
nutrition information must be similar to that of nutrition
information provided on packaged foods sold in grocery stores.

38 4. **Restaurants without menus.** Restaurants without menus
40 must display menu boards on the walls, with at least one menu
42 board that can be read from 12 feet away for each entrance. The
menu board must meet the requirements of subsection 1 but contain
the information specified in subsection 2 or 3.

44 **Sec. 2. Rules regarding nutrition information.** By December 31,
46 2003, the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health shall
48 adopt rules regarding the provision of nutrition information in
restaurants required by the State. Rules adopted pursuant to
this section are routine technical rules as defined in the Maine
Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

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SUMMARY

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Beginning July 1, 2004, this bill requires that restaurants with 20 or more locations in the nation must provide nutrition information on menu boards, menus and packaging. The bill also gives the Department of Human Services rule-making authority.

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