

S 3484

MEAL Act

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Jun 8, 2006

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Jun 8, 2006)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/senate-bill/3484>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Harkin, Tom [D-IA]

Party: Democratic • State: IA • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Jun 8, 2006

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 8, 2006

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
109 HR 5563	Identical bill	<b>Jun 23, 2006:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Menu Education and Labeling Act or the MEAL Act - Amends the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to require restaurants that are a part of a chain with 20 or more locations doing business under the same trade name to disclose: (1) in a statement adjacent to each menu item, the number of calories, grams of saturated fat plus trans fat, and milligrams of sodium in a standard food serving; (2) other information designed to enable the public to understand the significance of the nutrition information provided in the context of a total daily diet; (3) that such information shall be provided in writing upon request; and (4) in a statement adjacent to the name of the food on a menu board, the number of calories in a serving of the food. Exempts condiments, items placed on a table or counter for general use, daily specials, temporary menu items, and irregular menu items from these requirements.

Requires restaurants that sell self-serve food, such as through salad bars or buffet lines, to place a sign that lists the number of calories per standard serving adjacent to each food offered.

Permits retail food establishments to voluntarily provide, and states to require, additional nutritional information.

Requires vending machine operators to provide a conspicuous sign disclosing the number of calories in each item of food offered.

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### **Actions Timeline**

- **Jun 8, 2006:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 8, 2006:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S5669-5670)
- **Jun 8, 2006:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.