

S 2784

MEAL Act

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Mar 13, 2008

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. (Mar 13, 2008)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/senate-bill/2784>

Sponsor

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

Party: Democratic • State: IA • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Mar 13, 2008
Sen. Kennedy, Edward M. [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 13, 2008

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 14, 2008

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
110 HR 3895	Related bill	Oct 22, 2007: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Howard M. Metzenbaum 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**

- **Mar 13, 2008:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 13, 2008:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR 3/14/2008 S2159)
- **Mar 13, 2008:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.