

S 1048

Howard M. Metzenbaum MEAL Act

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: May 14, 2009

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. (May 14, 2009)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/1048>

Sponsor

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

Party: Democratic • **State:** IA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		May 14, 2009
Sen. Kennedy, Edward M. [D-MA]	D · MA		May 14, 2009
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		May 14, 2009
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Jun 2, 2009
Sen. Burris, Roland [D-IL]	D · IL		Jun 3, 2009
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Jun 25, 2009

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 14, 2009

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 2426	Related bill	May 15, 2009: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Howard M. Metzenbaum Menu Education and Labeling Act or the Howard M. Metzenbaum MEAL Act - Amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require chain restaurants with 20 or more locations doing business under the same trade name to disclose: (1) in a statement adjacent to a standard menu item, the number of calories, grams of saturated plus trans fat, grams of carbohydrate, and milligrams of sodium in each such item; (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 nutrition information is available in writing at the point of ordering; and (4) the number of calories in food on a drive-through menu board, adjacent to each menu item. Exempts condiments, items placed on a table or counter for general use, daily specials, and temporary menu items.

Requires restaurants that sell self-serve food and beverages, such as through a salad bar, buffet line, or cafeteria lines, to place a sign that lists the number of calories per serving adjacent to each food item or beverage offered.

Requires vending machine operators who operate 20 or more vending machines to provide a conspicuous sign disclosing the number of calories contained in each article of food dispensed from such machines.

Permits restaurants and vending machine operators to voluntarily provide, and states to require, additional nutritional information.

Actions Timeline

- **May 14, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 14, 2009:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S5522-5523)
- **May 14, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.