

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6786

As of January 30, 2008

Title: An act relating to creating a task force on menu labeling.

Brief Description: Creating a legislative task force on menu labeling.

Sponsors: Senators Franklin, Holmquist, Kastama and Marr.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 1/31/08.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Staff: Rhoda Donkin (786-7465)

Background: In recent years, there have been increasing efforts to require restaurants to provide nutritional information to patrons. Currently more than 20 states, cities, and counties are considering legislation and regulations that would require fast food and other chain restaurants to provide calories and other nutrition information on menus and menu boards.

While there is growing concern about diet, and in helping people monitor what they eat, there is also concern about the health effectiveness of menu labeling, and the impact on the restaurant industry.

Summary of Bill: The legislative task force on menu labeling is established. The task force will study current menu labeling efforts around Washington and other states, including scientific methods for establishing actual nutritional information and any known health impacts of menu labeling. A report is due to the Legislature December 1, 2008.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

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