

MARYLAND RETAILERS ALLIANCE

The Voice of Retailing in Maryland



**SB866 Public Health - Chain Restaurants - Disclosure and Notice to Customers of Sodium and Added Sugars
Health Committee
March 31, 2026**

Position: Neutral Unless Further Amended

Background: SB866 as amended in the Senate would require restaurants with at least 20 locations to notify customers of the availability of menu nutrition content.

Comments: The Maryland Retailers Alliance (MRA) was opposed to the passage of *SB866 Public Health - Chain Restaurants - Sodium and Added Sugars Warning Icons* as introduced, which as drafted would have required restaurants with at least 20 locations to add additional icons to menu items to indicate high levels of added sugar and sodium content. Federal law already requires restaurants with at least 20 locations to provide nutritional information, including but not limited to sodium and total sugar content, for all menu items. Restaurants often comply by posting their menu and nutritional information online, meaning customers can review the nutritional information of all food items before choosing to patronize specific restaurants or can independently access this information while reviewing the menu in a restaurant. Restaurant employees can also provide the information or assist with access at any time should a patron require it. With this access already in place, the requirements initially proposed by SB866 were duplicative and unnecessary.

The Senate Finance Committee amended SB866 to require disclosure notifications rather than icons on menus; restaurants must post notices that the menu's full nutritional information is available, and the information must be accessible through a web link/code or in print for customer review. This approach is more appropriate than individual ingredient icons as customers who wish to review a menu's nutritional information can assess all aspects of menu items holistically. The notice requirement will work in tandem with existing federal requirements to better inform customers about the available information without placing additional burdens on restaurant businesses.

The Maryland Retailers Alliance is now neutral on the bill as passed by the Senate, but would take an unfavorable position if it were further amended to conform with HB1048 as passed by the House. MRA would respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB866 as amended in the Senate. Thank you for your consideration.