

Date of Hearing: August 20, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 764 (Weber Pierson) – As Amended June 19, 2025

Policy Committee: Health

Vote: 16 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires a chain restaurant that sells a children's meal to offer at least one children's meal that meets specified nutrition standards.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Defines, or uses existing definitions for, the following:
 - a) "Chain restaurant" to mean a restaurant or similar retail food establishment that is part of a chain with 20 or more locations doing business under the same name and offering for sale substantially the same menu items, regardless of the type of ownership of locations.
 - b) "Children's meal" to mean a combination of food items and a beverage, or a single food item and a beverage, sold together at a single price, primarily intended for consumption by a child.
 - c) "Default beverage" to mean the beverage automatically included or offered as part of a children's meal, absent a specific request by the purchaser for an alternative beverage.
 - d) "Restaurant" to mean a retail food establishment that prepares, serves, and vends food directly to the consumer.
- 2) Requires a chain restaurant that sells a children's meal offer at least one children's meal that meets the following minimum nutrition standards:
 - a) The children's meal must not contain more than 550 calories, 700 milligrams of sodium, 10% of calories from saturated fat, 15 grams of added sugar, or 0 grams of trans fat.
 - b) The children's meal must include at least two of the following:
 - i) A serving of one-half of a cup or more of fruit. Specifies that 100 %t fruit juice is required to be considered a serving of fruit.
 - ii) A serving of one-half of a cup or more of vegetables.
 - iii) A serving of one-half of a cup or more nonfat or low-fat dairy.

- iv) A serving of meat or a meat alternative equal to at least one ounce of meat, poultry, or seafood, one egg, one-fourth of a cup of soy products or pulses (legumes), including beans, peas, or lentils, two tablespoons of nut butter; or, one ounce of nuts and seeds.
 - v) A serving of eight or more grams of whole grains that either contains 50% or more of whole grain ingredients, or whose first listed ingredient, in descending order of predominance, is whole grains.
- 3) Requires a chain restaurant that sells children's meals to include an icon or symbol on the menu to identify the children's meal that meets the requirements of this bill, and requires the icon or symbol and accompanying text to be displayed conspicuously, as specified.
 - 4) Requires, on or before July 1, 2026, a chain restaurant that sells a children's meal to include information on how to comply with the requirements of this bill in an employee's training.
 - 5) Finds and declares that the nutrition standards in this bill are informed by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the National Restaurant Association's 2021 Kids LiveWell 2.0 nutrition standards for children's meals.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No state costs.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** The bill is co-sponsored by the American Heart Association and the American Diabetes Association. According to the author:

As a physician, I've seen the alarming impact of poor nutrition on children's health, and as a mother, I know how challenging it can be to find healthy options when dining out...Our state faces a childhood obesity crisis, and we must take action now to reverse these trends.

[This bill] is an important step forward. This bill will require chain restaurants to offer healthier meal options for children, helping families make better food choices when dining out. By setting clear nutritional standards and providing training for restaurant employees, we are making it easier for parents to provide healthy meals for their kids, no matter where they eat.

This bill will help ensure that children's meals not only meet basic nutritional standards but also support their long-term health. It's time to prioritize our children's well-being and take steps toward a healthier California for all.

- 2) **Background. Kids Live Well 2.0 Standards.** According to its website, the National Restaurant Association launched Kids LiveWell (KLW) in 2011 to help parents and children select healthier menu options when dining out. Restaurants that participate in this voluntary program commit to offering healthful meal items for children with a particular focus on increasing consumption of fruits and vegetables, lean protein, whole grains, and low-fat dairy

while limiting unhealthy fats, sugars, and sodium. The National Restaurant Association “relaunched” this effort in 2021 as K LW 2.0 to better align with the current nutrition science. Restaurants participating in K LW agree to offer at least two children’s meals (compared to just one under this bill) that meet the specified criteria.

- 3) **Related and Prior Legislation.** SB 68 (Menjivar) adds sesame to the list of major food allergens in the California Retail Food Code and requires restaurants to provide written notification of the major food allergens that the restaurant knows or reasonably should know are contained in each menu item. SB 68 is pending in this committee.

SB 1192 (Monning), Chapter 608, Statutes of 2018, requires restaurants that sell children’s meals to make either water, milk, or a nondairy milk alternative the default beverage that is offered with a children’s meal.

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