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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

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### SB 869 (Weber Pierson) - Restaurant menus: added sugar warnings

**Version:** April 13, 2026

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** April 20, 2026

**Policy Vote:** HEALTH 9 - 0

**Mandate:** Yes

**Consultant:** Agnes Lee

**Bill Summary:** SB 869 would require chain restaurants to display specific information next to beverage items that have “high added sugar content,” as defined.

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

- Unknown potential General Fund costs for the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for state administration.
- Unknown ongoing costs for local health agencies for enforcement. Costs to counties for administration would be potentially reimbursable by the state, subject to a determination by the Commission on State Mandates.

**Background:** California’s Retail Food Code (CalCode) provides for the regulation of retail food facilities. Health and sanitation standards are established at the state level by CDPH through the CalCode, while enforcement is carried out by 58 county environmental health departments, and four city environmental health departments.

Current law requires restaurants, as specified, to meet the following:

- Comply with federal menu labeling requirements regarding calorie and other nutritional information.
- Provide written notification of major food allergens contained as an ingredient in each menu item.
- Make the default beverage offered with a children’s meal one of the following:
  - Water, sparkling, or flavored water, with no added natural or artificial sweeteners;
  - Unflavored milk;
  - A nondairy milk alternative that contains no more than 130 calories per container or serving that meets the standards for the National School Lunch Program.

**Proposed Law:** Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Define “high added sugar content” to mean 50 percent or more per serving of the daily reference value for added sugar used by the United States Food and Drug

Administration on January 1, 2026, to calculate the percent daily value for nutrition labeling of food.

- Require, on or before January 1, 2028, a chain restaurant offering a standard menu beverage item with high added sugar content to display both of the following:
  - An added sugar icon prominently, clearly, and in a conspicuous manner on its menus, immediately adjacent to each standard menu beverage item with high added sugar content, indicating that the added sugar content of this item exceeds one-half the total daily recommended limit.
  - The following factual warning statement prominently, clearly, and conspicuously at the point of selection: “(Insert icon here) indicates that the added sugar content of this item exceeds one-half the total daily recommended limit.”

**Related Legislation:** SB 977 (Weber Pierson) would require a chain restaurant that sells a children’s meal, to offer at least one children’s meal that meets specified nutritional requirements. The bill is currently on the Senate floor.

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