Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Buffy Wicks, Chair
SB 869 (Weber Pierson) – As Amended July 2, 2026

Policy Committee: Health Vote: 10 - 3

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: Yes Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill requires a chain restaurant to display on its menus an added sugar icon immediately adjacent to each standard menu beverage item that has high added sugar content, as defined.

More specifically, this bill:

1) Defines the following for purposes of this bill:

   a) "Chain restaurant" to mean a restaurant or similar retail food establishment, including a cafe or deli within another retail 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 the locations.

   b) "High added sugar content" to mean 100% or more per serving of the daily value for added sugar used by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on January 1, 2026, to calculate the percent daily value for nutrition labeling of food.

   c) "Standard menu beverage item" to mean a beverage that is prepared or poured at, and listed on a menu of, a chain restaurant and that is intended to be consumed by drinking, including a fountain drink, a blended beverage, or a variable beverage item (a beverage listed as a single item and comes in different flavors, varieties, and combinations).

   d) "Added sugar icon" to mean an image of a sugar cube inside a black triangle.

2) Requires, on or before January 1, 2029, a chain restaurant offering a standard menu beverage item with high added sugar content display both of the following:

   a) 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, as specified.

   b) The following warning statement prominently, clearly, and conspicuously at the point of selection: "[Insert added sugar icon here] indicates that the added sugar content of this item contains or exceeds the total daily recommended limit."

FISCAL EFFECT:

Minor and absorbable costs to the California Department of Public Health and local environmental health agencies.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

> [E]xcessive consumption of added sugar is associated with increased risk of obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and other chronic health conditions. Sugary beverages are a significant source of added sugars in the American diet and are often consumed without a clear understanding of how much sugar they contain.
>
> Consumers frequently make purchasing decisions quickly, especially in restaurant settings, and may not have access to detailed nutrition information at the point of selection. Clear, standardized labels placed directly on menus can help address this information gap.
>
> SB 869 addresses this information gap by requiring chain restaurants …to display a clear and conspicuous added sugar warning icon next to beverage items that contain high levels of added sugar.

2) **Background.** Added sugars include sugars that are added during the processing of foods, foods packaged as sweeteners (such as table sugar), sugars from syrups and honey, and sugars from concentrated fruit or vegetable juices. Sugars that occur naturally in milk, fruits, and vegetables are not added sugars. According to the FDA, the daily value for added sugars is 50 grams per day based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Thus, a beverage with at least 50 grams of sugar has "high added sugar content," as defined in this bill. A 2020 study found that more than 20% of fast-food or quick-service restaurant customers purchased sugary drinks containing at least 200 calories (50 grams of added sugars) during their visit. Sugary drinks are leading sources of added sugars in the American diet.

   Dietary sugar consumption is associated with obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, overall cancer mortality, and all-cause mortality. Excess consumption of sugar, especially in beverages, also contributes to weight gain by tricking the body into turning off its appetite-control system.

   In October 2025, the New York City (NYC) Health Department began to require restaurants in NYC that are part of chains that have 15 or more locations nationwide to identify menu items high in added sugars by posting an icon on their menus next to any prepackaged food or drink or non-packaged equivalent that contains 50 grams or more of added sugars. The rule also requires chain restaurants to warn consumers of the health dangers associated with eating and drinking too many added sugars over time, such as an increased risk of type 2 diabetes, weight gain, and tooth decay.

3) **Opposition.** The Latino Restaurant Association (LRA) states this bill imposes rigid and duplicative requirements that would create significant operational and financial burdens, particularly for minority-owned restaurants that are already navigating a challenging economic landscape. LRA contends that chain restaurants are already required to provide detailed nutritional information, including sugar content, both on menus and through

accessible formats such as digital platforms and in-store materials, that this bill would necessitate costly menu redesigns, reprinting, and operational changes that provide little added value to consumers while imposing real financial strain on operators.

4) **Oppose Unless Amended.** The California Restaurant Association (CRA) and the California Fuels and Convenience Alliance (CFCA) make some of the same arguments LRA makes. CRA and CFCA also contend this bill would restrict what restaurants can and cannot share on their very own menus due to the limited "real estate" on menus and menu-boards, and that menu labelling mandates add tremendous costs, which are passed on to guests. CRA and CFCA request allowing restaurants to communicate sugar content information through a digital format, including via a quick-response (QR) code, and that the bill apply to beverages with 50 or more grams of added sugar, which the bill was recently amended to do.

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