

Will either the LEAN Act or the MEAL Act affect supermarket foodservice operations? (August 2009)

LEAN Act and MEAL Act are separate bills introduced to the U.S. Congress that would require mandatory nutrition disclosure in certain restaurant/retail food service establishments. In June 2009, the bills were subject to compromise in the U.S. Senate and the compromise is to be a component of health reform legislation currently being debated.

Very little detail about the compromise was made public and so the original question cannot be answered. It might be helpful though to consider how FDA has defined the term "restaurants" per [FDA's Restaurant Labeling Guide](#):

- The term "restaurant" applies broadly to establishments where food is served or sold for immediate, on-site consumption (e.g., institutional food service establishments such as schools, hospitals, and cafeterias; transportation carriers such as trains and airplanes; delicatessens and catering operations with facilities for immediate consumption on the premises).
- The definition of "restaurant" extends to establishments where foods are generally consumed immediately where purchased or while walking away (e.g., lunch wagons, cookie counters in a mall, vending machines, and similar foods sold from convenience stores); and food delivery systems or establishments where ready-to-eat foods are delivered to homes or offices for immediate consumption.

Sunset Comment: Here are more examples of the goodies “our government” is slipping away with. These regulations may directly affect the grocery store service deli business.