



## **MANDATORY MENU LABELING**

**POSITION:** The Pennsylvania Tourism & Lodging Association opposes legislation that would impose mandatory nutritional analysis and menu and menu board labeling for restaurants in the Commonwealth.

**BACKGROUND:** On June 3, 2009, Representative Peter Daley (D-Washington) introduced House Bill 1608, which was referred to the House Commerce Committee. Representative Daley is the Democrat chairman of the Commerce Committee.

Similar legislation has been introduced in recent years. PTLA has a long-standing position in opposition to mandatory labeling legislation since 1994 and has effectively defeated those proposals.

HB 1608 would impose mandatory nutritional analysis and menu and menu board labeling for restaurants that averaged at least \$500,000 in prepared food sales over the most recent three consecutive calendar years.

The bill is supported by the YUM Group, (KFC, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell, & Long John Silvers) who hired a contract lobbyist to secure its passage.

**STATUS:** PTLA learned the House Commerce Committee was to consider HB 1608 on June 16. Association staff went into action immediately and sent a letter to Committee members urging them to oppose the bill and to schedule a hearing on the bill in order to hear from restaurant owners and operators who would be affected if this onerous legislation were enacted into law. This action resulted in the bill being pulled from the meeting agenda.

On June 17, PTLA staff, along with the staff from the PA Restaurant Association, met with Representative Daley to explain the Associations' opposition to his bill and how the bill would have a harmful economic impact on restaurants. At the conclusion of the meeting, Representative Daley agreed that he would not move the bill.

PTLA will continue to monitor the status of HB 1608 and actively lobby against the bill until the current two- year legislative session concludes on November 30, 2010.