

SB 441 (Torlakson, 2007)

Vending Machines

Background: Obesity has become a state and national epidemic. Overweight, unfit children and adults are at significant risk of Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma and other disabilities including orthopedic and psychological problems.

- Currently 54.6% of all Californians are overweight or obese.
- As of 2000, one in three children will develop diabetes during their lifetime.
- The percentage of adults who are obese has more than doubled in the last 25 years.
- The estimated costs associated with obesity and inactivity in California is \$21.7 billion.

The Problem: State vending machines largely provide only non-nutritious snacks, allowing for few alternatives to food and beverages that are high in sugar, fat and saturated fat. Employees and visitors to state buildings, highway rest stops, and state colleges often have few healthy choices when choosing from vending machines. Requiring more nutritious food in vending machines will complement growing state and federal efforts to promote improved nutrition and fitness. That state can set a strong example and provide incentives to vendors for nutritious fast food in state buildings.

The Solution: To require that 35% of all food and 1/3 of all drinks sold in vending machines in buildings owned or leased by the state shall be nutritious, as defined. It further requires that nutritional information of the food and drinks be posted on the outside of such machines. These requirements may be phased-in by January 1, 2010.

Sponsor: Author

Status: Assembly

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Support: California Council of the Blind, Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of California, American Diabetes Association, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, California Dental Association, AFSCME, California Center for Public Health Advocacy, Kaiser Permanente

Opposition: Howard Jarvis Tax Association, CVPC, California Nevada Soft Drink Association