

News

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. . . from the Illinois House of Representatives

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FORD MOVES TRANS FAT DISCLOSURE BILL OUT OF COMMITTEE

Bill Focuses on Helping Restaurant Patrons Eat Healthier

SPRINGFIELD – State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) announced Tuesday that a bill he is sponsoring to require certain restaurants to inform their customers about the presence of trans fatty acids (trans fat) in their meals passed out of the House Committee on Consumer Protection.

“This is an important step in making restaurants across the state healthier for their customers,” Ford said. “When people go out to eat, they aren’t always thinking about what’s healthy for them. This bill will keep the public more informed and help them make healthier decisions.”

House Bill 1297 will require restaurants and similar retail establishments that have \$20 million dollars or more in annual gross sales in Illinois to label any foods on their menus that contain trans fat. This legislation comes after New York City became the first city to ban all trans fat late in 2006. That ban requires all New York City restaurants, including bakeries, to phase out all trans fats by 2008.

“Chicago is considering banning trans fat from all its restaurants like New York did, which shows how seriously people are taking this problem,” Ford said. “Many national restaurant chains like Wendy’s, Starbucks, and McDonald’s, have already stopped using trans fats in a lot of of their products. If the fast-food companies are doing it, why shouldn’t we be labeling menus, if only to make people aware of what they’re eating?”

House Bill 1297 now moves to the full House for further consideration.

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