



IMMEDIATE Action Needed: Food Allergen Menu Disclosure Requirement - Independent Restaurant Exemption

The Maryland General Assembly is considering [House Bill 181](#) (sponsored by [Del. Jamila Woods](#), D-26 Prince George's), which would require restaurants to disclose whether any of the [nine main food allergens](#) are contained as an ingredient in each menu item. Disclosures could be provided on menus, through a separate insert or handout, or in a digital format such as a QR code or online. The bill would also establish civil and criminal penalties for violations.

The Restaurant Association of Maryland (RAM) opposes the legislation as introduced and is seeking an amendment to exempt restaurants with fewer than 20 locations nationwide. This exemption is critically important for independent operators because the requirements would be difficult and costly to comply with in practice, especially when menus and ingredients change frequently.

To help us successfully get the bill amended, it is essential that you contact your Delegate(s) if you think the proposed requirements would be a burden on your business.

This bill could move quickly out of committee to the full House of Delegates for a vote, so please reach out today.

You can find your state Delegate(s) and their contact information [HERE](#) under the "Lookup" tab (we recommend using your business address). If you know your Delegates, a phone call to their offices would be more effective than email. *(NOTE: you only need to contact your Delegates because this bill is not in the Senate)*

If you would like help drafting your message or want us to review your email before you send it, please contact Brendan Mahoney at bmahoney@marylandrestaurants.com or (443) 752-2899.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see what this legislation would really require.