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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
150th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE BILL NO. 79

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 16 OF THE DELAWARE CODE REGARDING DEFAULT BEVERAGES IN CHILDRENS' MEALS IN RESTAURANTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

1 Section 1. Amend § 122, Title 16 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and
2 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

3 § 122 Powers and duties of the Department of Health and Social Services.

4 The Department shall have the following general powers and duties:

5 (3) Adopt, promulgate, amend, and repeal regulations consistent with law, which regulations shall not extend,
6 modify or conflict with any law of this State or the reasonable implications thereof, and which shall be enforced by all
7 ~~state~~ State and local public health officials, ~~to~~ to do all of the following:

8 u.1. Promulgate and enforce standards to regulate food establishments ~~which may include, but are not~~
9 ~~limited to,~~ including restaurants, caterers, temporary food vendors, grocery stores, food vending machines, ice
10 manufacturers and cottage industries that prepare or handle food for human consumption whenever it is determined
11 that said food represents a hazard to the public health.

12 Section 2. Amend § 122, Title 16 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and
13 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

14 § 140B Default Beverages Offered in Children's Meals.

15 (a) A restaurant offering children's meals for sale that include a beverage must offer as a default beverage with the
16 children's meal 1 or more of the following:

17 (1) Water, sparkling water, or flavored water that has no added sugar, corn syrup, or other natural or artificial
18 sweeteners.

19 (2) Flavored or unflavored whole milk, nonfat or low-fat 1% dairy milk or no-dairy beverage that is
20 nutritionally equivalent to fluid milk in a serving of 8 ounces or less.

21 (3) One hundred percent fruit juice or vegetable juice, combination of fruit juice and vegetable juice, or fruit
22 juice or vegetable juice combined with water or carbonated water that has no added natural or artificial sweetener, in a
23 serving size of 8 ounces or less.

24 (b) For purposes of this section:

25 (1) “Restaurant” means a commercial establishment that serves food to customers for consumption on or off
26 the premises.

27 (2) “Children’s Meal” means a combination of food and beverage, sold together at a single price by a
28 restaurant, primarily intended for consumption by children.

29 (3) “Default Beverage” means a beverage automatically included or offered as part of a children’s meal absent
30 a specific request for a substitute or alternate beverage by the purchaser of the children’s meal.

31 (c) The Department shall promulgate and enforce standards to regulate this section as empowered under §
32 122(3)u.1. of this chapter.

33 (d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a restaurant from selling, or a customer from purchasing, an alternative to
34 the default beverage if requested by the purchaser of the children’s meal.

35 Section 3. Section 2 of this Act shall become effective twelve (12) months after enactment into law or upon
36 promulgation of regulations adopted under that section, whichever is the later date.

SYNOPSIS

This bill requires the State food safety standards for restaurants to include a system for requiring healthy beverages to be offered as the default beverage with a combination children’s meal inclusive of a drink, sold together at a unit price. It does not prohibit the restaurant’s ability to sell, or a customer’s ability to choose, a substitute or alternative beverage as-requested by a customer. This effectively creates an “opt in” instead of an “opt out” for many sugar-rich drink choices for children.

This bill also makes technical corrections to conform existing law to the standards of the Delaware Legislative Drafting Manual.