



Public Health Law Program

OFFICE FOR STATE, TRIBAL, LOCAL AND TERRITORIAL SUPPORT

Other Resources Related to Sodium Reduction for STLTS¹

Pricing Strategies for Low-Sodium Foods: Summary of Related Laws and Policies

While pricing and taxing strategies have been explored in other areas of nutrition policy, only two states have explored pricing strategies to affect dietary sodium reduction in distinct populations. “Pricing strategies” in this context means providing government entities or individuals with incentives to offer low-sodium foods or disincentives to offer higher sodium foods in specific contexts.

- Maryland’s regulations require food store or food store/pharmacy combination vendors to accept and redeem coupons from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) for low-sodium canned fruits and vegetables.
- Pennsylvania’s Department of Education has a policy specifying that reimbursement will be given to schools that implement the Nutrition Standards for Competitive Foods in

¹ This document was developed by Tara Ramanathan, J.D., M.P.H., Public Health Analyst with the Public Health Law Program (PHLP) within CDC’s Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support. PHLP provides technical assistance and public health law resources to advance the use of law as a public health tool. PHLP cannot provide legal advice on any issue and cannot represent any individual or entity in any matter. PHLP recommends seeking the advice of an attorney or other qualified professional with questions regarding the application of law to a specific circumstance. For more information, please contact PHLP at phlawprogram@cdc.gov or (404) 498-0470.

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Pennsylvania Schools, which requires choosing foods for classroom parties that are moderate in sodium and limiting foods for fundraisers that are high in sodium.

Both policies provide incentives to offer foods that lower sodium consumption, but neither policy provides sodium limits or standards for the quantity of sodium consumed. Taxing strategies addressing sodium in foods were not found in this research, however. The policies are listed in the following Appendix, Table of Laws and Policies Related to Pricing Strategies for Low-Sodium Foods.

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Appendix: Table of Laws and Policies Related to Pricing Strategies for Low-Sodium Foods

State	Policy Type	Citation	Authority	Brief Description	Effective Date
MD	Regulation and Statute	MD. CODE REGS. 10.54.03.13 (2011)	MD. CODE. ANN., HEALTH-GEN. §§ 2-104(b), 18-107(a), 18-108 (West 2011)	Requires that food stores or food store/pharmacy combination vendors redeem WIC coupons for low-sodium canned fruits and vegetables	Oct. 1, 2010
PA	Policy	PA. DEP'T OF EDUC., SCHOOL NUTRITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (2007)	24 PA. STAT. ANN. §§ 13-1337.1 (2007); 14-1422.3(5) (West 2007)	Reimburses schools that implement the Nutrition Standards for Competitive Foods in PA Schools, which requires <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choosing moderate-sodium foods for classroom parties • Limiting high-sodium foods for fundraisers 	July 2008