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H.B. No. 681

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring warning signs regarding mercury levels in  
certain fish.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 437, Health and Safety Code, is amended  
by adding Section 437.022 to read as follows:

Sec. 437.022. WARNING SIGN REGARDING MERCURY LEVELS IN  
CERTAIN FISH. (a) A retail fish dealer shall post a warning sign in  
a conspicuous location where it is readily visible by persons  
purchasing fresh or previously frozen fish. The department by rule  
shall specify the size and graphic design of the sign. The sign  
must contain the following wording:

ATTENTION WOMEN CONSIDERING BECOMING PREGNANT, PREGNANT  
WOMEN, NURSING MOTHERS, AND PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

Some fish and shellfish, especially large fish such as shark,  
swordfish, king mackerel, and tilefish, may contain high levels of  
mercury that may harm the developing nervous system of a child.

For more information about the risks of mercury in fish and  
shellfish call the Texas Department of State Health Services' food  
information line toll-free at (insert toll-free telephone number).

(b) The department shall adopt rules to administer this  
section.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.