

Mandatory Vegetables Bill



Clerk:

First Line

Honourable Members please stand.

Rules

1. Always stand up to speak.
2. Always address your remarks through the Speaker.
3. Address the Speaker as “Madam Speaker”, “Mr. Speaker” or “Speaker.”
4. Members speak without interruption.
5. The Speaker keeps order.

Bill – First Reading

The Mandatory Vegetables Bill

A Bill for an Act to make sure vegetables are a key part of every meal for South Australian residents.

The Bill makes it so that vegetables must be the main part, or a side, in every meal.

This Bill aims to ensure that all South Australians can grow strong and live a long life.

Speaker:

Members, please sit down. Parliament is now in session. The rules of the Parliament must be obeyed. Clerk, please read out the rules.

The Mandatory Vegetables Bill will now be debated. Clerk, please read out the Bill.

I call on the Minister for Health & Wellbeing to introduce the Bill

I call on the Leader of the Opposition

I call on the Premier

I call on the Shadow Minister for Health & Wellbeing

I call on the Member for Narnia (*first Government backbencher*)

I call on the Member for Hogwarts (*first Opposition backbencher*)

I call on the Member for Mordor (*second Government backbencher*)

I call on the Member for Atlantis (*second Opposition backbencher*)

I call on the Member for Pride Rock (*third Government backbencher*)

I call on the Member for Springfield (*minor party Member*)

I call on the Member for Pemberley (*independent Member*)

Does anyone else wish to speak on the Bill? Stand if you wish to speak.

I call on

I call on the Minister for Health & Wellbeing to close the debate.

A vote on the bill will now be taken. All those in favour say "aye"

All those against say "no"

The ayes/noes have it

A division has been called. Clerk, ring the bells.

Those who support mandatory vegetables will move to the right of the chair. Those who do not support it will move to the left of the chair.

The result is # in favour of mandatory vegetables, and # against mandatory vegetables.

The Bill has/has not passed.

In a tie: There being equal votes for and against the Bill I cast my vote for the Bill. The ideas put forward by the Honourable Members have made me decide to vote for the Bill.

Minister for Health and Wellbeing

(Member for Endor)

First speech

Thank you, Madam / Mr. Speaker / Speaker,

I move that this Bill be read a second time.

I am very excited to introduce this new Bill for the residents of South Australia.

Our Government has thought long and hard about what it will take to keep South Australians taking care of their health and eating in moderation.

This Bill aims to make sure families eat a balanced and healthy diet and aims to help South Australian children to grow up big and strong.

We believe that this Bill will help to create a future of a strong and healthy South Australians.

Second speech

Thank you to all Members for your ideas and talking in the debate. I hope you will support this Bill.

I move that this Bill be read a second time.

Leader of the Opposition

(Member for Asgard)

Thank you, Madam / Mr. Speaker / Speaker,

I understand the Government's idea to encourage South Australians to look after their health and the types of food they are eating. However, this Bill shows that the Government does not understand that you don't need vegetables in every meal to be healthy.

Does the Government not believe in moderation, or free choice? What do we do about people who snack and have lots of little meals every day? This Bill is not well planned.

I think this Bill will not help make the state any healthier. You can force people to serve vegetables, but you cannot force people to eat them. People who don't like vegetables will throw them out and increase food wastage.

Premier

(Member for El Dorado)

Thank you, Madam / Mr. Speaker / Speaker,

The Bill is not bad just because you can have healthy meals without vegetables.

The Bill wants people to think of vegetables as normal, and something we should have every day.

Vegetarian and vegan options will be much more plentiful, and everyone will have yummy and healthy options to eat. I remind the Opposition that this Bill is not outlawing meat, but merely ensuring that there are options for everyone to eat healthily.

Shadow Minister for Health & Wellbeing

(Member for Skyrim)

Thank you, Madam / Mr. Speaker / Speaker,

The Premier mentioned that this Bill will not force people to like vegetables, however, it will force people to eat them if restaurants must serve them.

The Government is not supposed to fuss over small details of people's lives and force the public to all be the same.

There are many traditional dishes from many countries which do not include vegetables – would cooking your traditional dish now be illegal?

It is unnecessary for the Government to be changing how people go about their everyday lives.

Member for Narnia

(First Government Backbencher)

Thank you, Madam / Mr. Speaker / Speaker,

The Opposition's comment is silly - of course, traditions will be respected. People can always serve their traditional dish with a side of salad.

My own community is worried about the poor understanding people have about food groups and the nutrients in food.

When this Bill comes into force, there will be lots of lessons about how to make a balanced meal plate and the benefits of vegetables.

This Bill will help broaden peoples' tastes!

Member for Hogwarts

(First Opposition Backbencher)

Thank you, Madam / Mr. Speaker / Speaker,

It's all well and good that other Members have communities who like this idea, but mine doesn't.

It would uproot my community's day to day life to make parts of their diet illegal. Families have the right to carry on traditions and making every meal have vegetables will cause my community to change their lives and ruin meals such as Christmas or Easter lunch.

Quick meals when people are in a rush often are not healthy, but they are essential. Instant noodles for example. We cannot force people to have vegetables when it will make them late.

Member for Mordor

(Second Government Backbencher)

Thank you, Madam / Mr. Speaker / Speaker,

I don't think the Opposition understands the effects a healthier population will have on South Australia as a whole.

People will live longer, there will be fewer people getting sick so they can work harder, our economy will improve, our healthcare systems won't be as stressed, and, with everyone eating vegetables, we can grow the produce in South Australia and support our farmers.

This is an opportunity for South Australia to lead the way in healthy living!

Member for Atlantis

(Second Opposition Backbencher)

Thank you, Madam / Mr. Speaker / Speaker,

This Bill doesn't teach people about the idea of moderation. People are allowed to enjoy themselves and vary their diet.

And how does the Government plan to enforce this? Will Police be knocking on our doors three times a day to double check what we're eating?

This Bill will make too much work for the Police and will do a lot of damage.

Member for Pride Rock

(Third Government Backbencher)

Thank you, Madam / Mr. Speaker / Speaker,

South Australia is known around Australia for being a green state, leading the way in environmental policy.

This Bill will make our leadership even better, with these changes to help with the sustainability.

This Bill will also make sure that farming will stay strong, and with exports the state will get richer.

Increasing vegetable farming will not kill the meat industry. This Government plans to export internationally so the meat industry can grow whilst South Australia gets healthier.

Member for Springfield

(Minor Party Member)

Thank you, Madam / Mr. Speaker / Speaker,

I understand this Bill is aiming to improve the health and future of our young South Australians.

I do worry that this may put other states at a disadvantage for interstate trade if we are trying to have more vegetable farming because we force people to eat vegetables.

If other states are disadvantaged, it will go against the Australian Constitution.

As you well know interstate trade is protected in the Constitution and must remain free.

If this Bill passes, we may face legal punishments.

Member for Pemberley

(Independent Member)

Thank you, Madam / Mr. Speaker / Speaker,

I will be asking for a change to the Bill.

I think that trying to ensure the health of South Australians is a good idea, but this Bill is very tough and will affect people's everyday lives.

I agree that thinking all vegetables dishes are healthy is incorrect, and I don't think every single meal should include vegetables.

Breakfast for example. A balanced breakfast sometimes does not have any vegetables, but has fruit, or muesli, or nuts. Why should these meals which are also healthy be illegal?

I think we should change the Bill to say:

1. Vegetables are to be a part of two meals a day.
2. Fruit in a healthy breakfast may replace vegetables.

I feel like these changes will still create healthier eating habits in South Australians, while not hurting South Australian families too badly.