

sub-title "Adulteration of Food and Drink", and to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 169 of the said Article, repealing the prohibition against the use of artificial sweeteners in soft drinks and permitting their use when authorized by regulations of the State Board of Health, AND RELATING GENERALLY TO THE USE OF SYRUP AND OTHER SWEETENING LIQUIDS AND SUBSTANCES IN SOFT DRINKS.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 168 of Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1951 Edition), title "Health", sub-title "Adulteration of Food and Drink", be and it is hereby repealed and that Section 169 of the said Article be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, so as to read as follows:

169. For the purpose of Sections 160-173 all soft drinks or other non-alcoholic beverages, except non-alcoholic fruit juices, shall consist of a beverage made from pure cane, CORN or beet sugar syrup or such other sweetening liquids or substances *including artificial sweeteners* as shall be permitted by the regulations of the State Board of Health, containing pure flavoring material with or without added fruit acid, with or without added color, provided that nothing in Sections 160-173 shall prohibit the use of any other harmless ingredient in the manufacture of soft drinks or other non-alcoholic beverages; provided that in case pure cane or beet sugar syrups are used as the sole sweetening agents, the finished beverage shall contain no less than seven (7%) per cent by weight of sugar except in case of Ginger Ale which must contain not less than six (6%) per cent. PROVIDED FURTHER THAT WHEN ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS ARE USED, THEY SHALL BE ENTIRELY SUBSTITUTED. The provisions of this section shall not apply to non-alcoholic beverages, made in imitation of beer, bitter drinks and other similar drinks. It is provided further that when artificial coal tar colors are used nothing but the certified colors as approved by the Federal Government are permissible.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1954.

Approved April 2, 1954.