

HB579 INTRODUCED



1 HB579
2 11GKQ3Z-1
3 By Representatives Butler, Harrison
4 RFD: State Government
5 First Read: 15-Apr-25



SYNOPSIS:

This bill would require the Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Human Resources to request a waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture to exclude soda from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program annually until the waiver is granted.

This bill would also prohibit the purchase of soda using program benefits in the state, should the waiver be granted.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to public assistance; to require the Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Human Resources to request a waiver to exclude soda from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program annually until the waiver is granted; and to prohibit the purchase of soda using program benefits in the state should the waiver be granted.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Human Resources shall request a waiver from the



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United States Department of Agriculture to exclude soda from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. If the waiver is granted, the commissioner shall prohibit enrollees in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program from purchasing soda using program benefits. If the waiver is not granted, the commissioner shall request a waiver annually until the waiver is granted.

(b) For the purposes of this section, the term "soda" means a carbonated beverage that contains more than one gram of added sugar or any artificial sweetener.

Section 2. This act shall become effective on October 1, 2025.