

**SB57 INTRODUCED**



1 SB57

2 KHBE455-1

3 By Senators Orr, Chesteen, Carnley, Waggoner, Barfoot, Stutts,  
4 Hovey, Kelley, Weaver, Givhan, Allen, Butler

5 RFD: Finance and Taxation General Fund

6 First Read: 13-Jan-26



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4     SYNOPSIS:

5                 This bill would require the Department of Human  
6                 Resources to request a waiver from the United States  
7                 Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service to  
8                 exclude candy and soda from the definition of eligible  
9                 food for purposes of SNAP benefits.

10                If the waiver is granted, this bill would  
11                require the department to prohibit the purchase of  
12                candy and soda with SNAP benefits.

13                This bill would also require the department to  
14                annually resubmit the request for a waiver if the  
15                request is denied.

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18                A BILL

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20                TO BE ENTITLED

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22                AN ACT

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24                Relating to public assistance; to require the  
25                Department of Human Resources to request a waiver to exclude  
26                candy and soda from the definition of "eligible foods" for  
27                purposes of SNAP benefits; to require the department to  
28                prohibit the purchase of candy and soda with SNAP benefits if  
              the waiver is granted; and to provide for the resubmission of  
              the request, if the request is denied.

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29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

30         Section 1. (a) For the purposes of this section, the  
31 following terms have the following meanings:

32             (1) CANDY. Foods that list sugar, cane sugar, corn  
33 syrup, or high fructose corn syrup as the first ingredient.  
34 The term includes foods that include any food altered from its  
35 natural state through processes including, but not limited to,  
36 heating, mixing, milling, canning, freezing, or adding  
37 ingredients. The term does not include any granulated sugar,  
38 raw sugar, or other single-ingredient sugars used for cooking  
39 and baking.

40             (2) DEPARTMENT. The Alabama Department of Human  
41 Resources.

42             (3) SNAP BENEFIT. A financial benefit, coupon, or  
43 privilege available under the federal Supplemental Nutrition  
44 Assistance Program, 7 U.S.C. Chapter 51.

45             (4) SODA. Beverages that list carbonated water and  
46 sugar, cane sugar, corn syrup, or high fructose corn syrup as  
47 the first two ingredients. The term does not include any  
48 beverages that list aspartame or other low or non-caloric  
49 sweeteners as one of the first two ingredients.

50             (5) USDA FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE. The United States  
51 Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service.

52             (b) The commissioner of the department shall request a  
53 waiver from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service to authorize  
54 the department to exclude candy and soda from the definition  
55 of "eligible foods" under 7 C.F.R. § 271.2.

56             (c) If the waiver described in subsection (b) is

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57       approved by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, the  
58       department shall prohibit the use of SNAP benefits for the  
59       purchase of candy and soda.

60               (d) If the waiver described in subsection (b) is  
61       denied, the commissioner shall resubmit the request for a  
62       waiver to the USDA Food and Nutrition Service annually until  
63       approval is granted.

64               Section 2. This act shall become effective on October  
65       1, 2026.