

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



SYNOPSIS:

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

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

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

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to public assistance; to require the Department of Human Resources to request a waiver to exclude candy and soda from the definition of "eligible foods" for purposes of SNAP benefits; to require the department to 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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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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