

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1962

5 By: Representative Vaught
6 By: Senators B. Davis, C. Penzo, C. Tucker
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING ULTRA-PROCESSED FOODS IN SCHOOLS;
10 TO PROHIBIT A SCHOOL FROM SERVING OR SELLING ULTRA-
11 PROCESSED FOOD ON THE SCHOOL CAMPUS DURING THE NORMAL
12 SCHOOL DAY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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15 TO PROHIBIT A SCHOOL FROM SERVING OR
16 SELLING ULTRA-PROCESSED FOOD ON THE
17 SCHOOL CAMPUS DURING THE NORMAL SCHOOL
18 DAY.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 7, is amended
24 to add an additional section to read as follows:

25 6-18-724. Ultra-processed food – Prohibition – Definition.

26 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

27 (1) Childhood obesity, morbidity, and wellness are matters of
28 statewide concern;

29 (2) Ultra-processed, industrially manufactured, nutrient-
30 depleted food with synthetic additives is undernourishing to students at
31 schools and contributes to childhood obesity; and

32 (3) A meal or snack offered to students at schools in this state
33 should be nutritious and made primarily of nutrient-dense plant or animal
34 products.

35 (b) As used in this section:

36 (1) "School" means:



1 (A) A public school district;

2 (B) An open-enrollment public charter school; or

3 (C) A private school; and

4 (2) "Ultra-processed food" means a food or beverage that
 5 contains one (1) or more of the following ingredients:

6 (A) Potassium bromate;

7 (B) Propylparaben;

8 (C) Titanium dioxide;

9 (D) Yellow dye 5;

10 (E) Yellow dye 6;

11 (F) Blue dye 1;

12 (G) Blue dye 2;

13 (H) Green dye 3;

14 (I) Red dye 3; or

15 (J) Red dye 40.

16 (c) A school shall not serve or sell on the school campus during the
 17 normal school day ultra-processed food that is produced after January 1,
 18 2028.

19 (d) This section does not prevent a parent, legal guardian, or person
 20 standing in loco parentis to a student from providing ultra-processed food to
 21 his or her child during the normal school day.

22 (e) The Department of Education may promulgate rules to implement this
 23 section.

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