

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: S4/7/25

95th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2025

SENATE BILL 217

By: Senator C. Penzo

By: Representative Bentley

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO REQUEST A WAIVER TO EXCLUDE CANDY AND SOFT DRINKS FROM ELIGIBLE FOODS UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO REQUEST A WAIVER TO EXCLUDE CANDY AND SOFT DRINKS FROM ELIGIBLE FOODS UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 76, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

20-76-120. Waiver to enhance nutrition in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

The Secretary of the Department of Human Services shall request a waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture to exclude candy and soft drinks from the definition of eligible foods under 7 C.F.R. § 271.2, as it existed on January 1, 2025.

(1) If a waiver requested under this section is granted, the secretary shall prohibit the purchase of candy and soft drinks with benefits provided through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

(2) If the waiver requested under this section is not granted,



the secretary shall request a waiver annually until the waiver to exclude
candy and soft drinks from the definition of eligible foods is granted.

/s/C. Penzo

APPROVED: 4/21/25