

SNAP Waiver to Prohibit Purchase of Candy and Soda; SB 79

SB 79 directs the Secretary for Children and Families (Secretary) to request a waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to exclude candy and soft drinks from the definition of eligible foods for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

If the waiver is granted, the bill requires the Secretary to prohibit the purchase of candy and soft drinks with SNAP benefits. If denied, the Secretary is required to request such a waiver annually until it is granted.

The bill defines “candy” and “soft drinks” as found in the Kansas Retailers’ Sales Tax Act, KSA 79-3602, which states:

- “Candy” means a preparation of sugar, honey, or other natural or artificial sweeteners in combination with chocolate, fruits, nuts, or other ingredients or flavorings in the form of bars, drops, or pieces;
 - “Candy” does not include any preparation containing flour and shall require no refrigeration; and
- “Soft drinks” means non-alcoholic beverages that contain natural or artificial sweeteners;
 - “Soft drinks” does not include beverages that contain milk or milk products, soy, rice, or similar milk substitutes or beverages that are greater than 50 percent vegetable or fruit juice by volume.