S.B. No. 379

AN ACT

relating to prohibiting the purchase of sweetened drinks and candy under the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1.  Subchapter A, Chapter 33, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 33.031 to read as follows:

Sec. 33.031.  PURCHASE OF SWEETENED DRINKS AND CANDY PROHIBITED UNDER SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. (a) In this section, "sweetened drink" means a nonalcoholic beverage made with water that contains five grams or more of added sugar or any amount of artificial sweeteners. The term does not include a beverage that contains:

(1)  milk or milk products;

(2)  soy, rice, or similar milk substitutes; or

(3)  more than 50 percent of vegetable or fruit juice by volume.

(b)  A recipient of supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits may not use those benefits to purchase:

(1)  a sweetened drink; or

(2)  candy ordinarily packaged and sold for consumption without further preparation.

SECTION 2.  If before implementing any provision of this Act a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision, the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the waiver or authorization is granted.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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I hereby certify that S.B. No. 379 passed the Senate on March 31, 2025, by the following vote:  Yeas 22, Nays 8; May 25, 2025, Senate refused to concur in House amendments and requested appointment of Conference Committee; May 29, 2025, House granted request of the Senate; May 31, 2025, Senate adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote:  Yeas 22, Nays 9.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 379 passed the House, with amendments, on May 23, 2025, by the following vote:  Yeas 90, Nays 37, two present not voting; May 29, 2025, House granted request of the Senate for appointment of Conference Committee; May 31, 2025, House adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote:  Yeas 84, Nays 45, two present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_            Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_           Governor