

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1035

5 By: Representatives Bentley, Richmond, Dotson, Ballinger, Barker, Beck, Boyd, Brown, Coleman, Davis,
6 Deffenbaugh, C. Douglas, Drown, C. Fite, L. Fite, Gates, M. Gray, Hammer, Henderson, G. Hodges,
7 Holcomb, Jean, Ladyman, Lemons, Lowery, A. Mayberry, McCollum, McNair, D. Meeks, S. Meeks,
8 Payton, Petty, Pilkington, Rushing, B. Smith, Speaks, Sullivan, Vaught, Watson, Womack
9 By: Senators Bledsoe, Collins-Smith, Flippo, B. Johnson, Rice, G. Stubblefield

For An Act To Be Entitled

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11 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS HEALTHY FOOD
12 IMPROVEMENT ACT; TO RESTRICT THE FOOD STAMP BENEFITS
13 TO HEALTHY FOODS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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17 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS HEALTHY FOOD
18 IMPROVEMENT ACT.
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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SECTION 1. Legislative findings and intent.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

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26 (1) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly
27 known as the food stamp program, assists eligible low-income individuals with
28 the purchase of food;

29 (2) Overconsumption of excessively sugared foods, food products,
30 and beverages increases the risk of obesity and other diseases;

31 (3) People living in poverty are more likely to consume
32 nutrient-poor food; and

33 (4) The rate of obesity in Arkansas has increased while the
34 obesity rate across the United States have remained level, according to a
35 recent study.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

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1 (1) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly
 2 known as the food stamp program, align with other programs and initiatives
 3 aimed at improving the health and welfare of Arkansas citizens; and

4 (2) Insufficient nutritional value foods, food products, and
 5 beverages are endangering the health of Arkansas residents.

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 7 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 76, Subchapter 2, is
 8 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

9 20-76-215. Use of food stamps for healthy food.

10 (a) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as
 11 the food stamp program, shall only allow benefits to be used only for foods,
 12 food products, and beverages that have sufficient nutritional value.

13 (b)(1) The Department of Human Services shall identify specific foods,
 14 food products, and beverages or general categories of foods, food products,
 15 and beverages that have sufficient nutritional value.

16 (2) The Department of Human Services shall use the federal
 17 guidelines for the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and
 18 Children as a basis for identifying foods, food products, and beverages with
 19 sufficient nutritional value.

20 (c) The Department of Human Services shall prohibit the use of
 21 benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known
 22 as the food stamp program, for foods, food products, and beverages with
 23 insufficient nutritional value.

24 (d) The Department of Human Services shall request a waiver from the
 25 Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture to allow the
 26 implementation.