

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H1/19/17 H1/20/17*

2 91st General Assembly

# A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2017

HOUSE BILL 1035

4

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

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## For An Act To Be Entitled

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AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS HEALTHY FOOD

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IMPROVEMENT ACT; TO RESTRICT THE FOOD STAMP BENEFITS

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TO HEALTHY FOODS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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## Subtitle

18

TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS HEALTHY FOOD

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IMPROVEMENT ACT.

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

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SECTION 1. Legislative findings and intent.

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(a) The General Assembly finds that:

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(1) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly

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known as the food stamp program, assists eligible low-income individuals with  
28 the purchase of food;

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(2) Overconsumption of excessively sugared foods, food products,

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and beverages increases the risk of obesity and other diseases;

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(3) People living in poverty are more likely to consume

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nutrient-poor food; and

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(4) The rate of obesity in Arkansas has increased while the

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obesity rate across the United States have remained level, according to a

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recent study.

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



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 Health shall identify specific foods, food  
14 products, and beverages or general categories of foods, food products, and  
15 beverages that have sufficient nutritional value.

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

20          (3) The Department of Health shall adopt rules to implement this  
21 section pursuant to the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et  
22 seq., and legislative review and approval under § 10-3-309.

23          (c) The Department of Human Services shall prohibit the use of  
24 benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known  
25 as the food stamp program, for foods, food products, and beverages with  
26 insufficient nutritional value based on rules implemented by the Department  
27 of Health.

28          (d) The Department of Human Services shall request a waiver from the  
29 Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture to allow the  
30 implementation.

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32                                   /s/Bentley