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SENATE BILL 186

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

Pat Woods and Rex Wilson and Jay C. Block

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE; PROHIBITING FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL
NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS FROM BEING USED TO
PURCHASE SWEETENED DRINKS AND CANDY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of the Public Assistance Act is
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE--
PROHIBITED USES.--

A. A person who receives benefits from the federal
supplemental nutrition assistance program shall not use those
benefits to purchase a sweetened drink or candy.

B. As used in this section:

(1) "candy" means a preparation of sugar,
honey or other natural or artificial sweeteners in combination

1 with chocolate, fruits, nuts or other ingredients or flavorings
2 in the form of bars, drops or pieces; and

3 (2) "sweetened drink" means a nonalcoholic
4 beverage made with water that contains five grams or more of
5 added sugar or any amount of artificial sweeteners. "Sweetened
6 drink" does not include a beverage that contains:

7 (a) milk or milk products;
8 (b) soymilk, rice milk or similar milk
9 substitutes; or

10 (c) at least fifty percent vegetable or
11 fruit juice by volume."

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