

**Mock Legislation**  
**SENATE BILL 2**  
**Referred to Health and Human Services Committee**

**AN ACT amending the Human Services Code to provide healthier choices covered under SNAP benefits.**

The General Assembly of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

**Section 1. Definitions**

The following words and phrases when used in this Act shall have the meanings given to them:

"Beverage for Medical Use."

- A. A nutritional therapy for individuals who cannot absorb or metabolize caloric or dietary nutrients from usual food or beverages
- B. A rehydration electrolyte solution formulated to prevent or treat dehydration due to illness
- C. Infant Formula
- D. Liquids used for weight reduction

"Candy."

- A. Chewing Gum and Mints
- B. Fruits, Nuts, Popcorn, or similar products, when coated with chocolate, caramel, toffee, or other confectionary coatings
- C. This term does not include ingredients used for baking, or Trail Mix

"Prepared Dessert." A processed, shelf-stable, ready-to-eat, prepackaged sweet food intended for immediate consumption without any further preparation. This term does not include granola or cereal bars, or bars primarily composed of nuts, seeds and dried fruit.

"SNAP." The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

"Sugar-sweetened beverage."

- A. Soda and Soft Drinks
- B. Flavored Waters
- C. Energy Drinks
- D. Pre-Sweetened Coffee or Tea
- E. Nonalcoholic Mixers
- F. Juice with added sugars or made from concentrates

**Section 2. Healthier Choices in SNAP Waiver**

- (A) Within 30 days of the effective date of this Act, the Department of Human Services shall submit a request to the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States

Department of Agriculture for a SNAP food restriction waiver permitting the Commonwealth to exclude the following products from SNAP eligibility:

- a. Candy
- b. Prepared Desserts
- c. Sugar-sweetened Beverages

(B) Within 60 days of approval of the waiver, the department shall promulgate regulations and implement necessary changes to exclude the products from purchase under SNAP.

(C) Not later than two years after the implementation of the waiver, the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee shall prepare and submit a report to the General Assembly evaluating:

- a. The potential and actual cost savings to Medicaid and other publicly funded health programs from reduced consumption of non-nutritive foods.
- b. The public health impacts associated with restricting these items from SNAP eligibility, including effects on rates of obesity and diabetes.
- c. Any administrative or implementation challenges arising from the waiver, including impacts on SNAP vendors and program recipients.

(D) The restrictions of the waiver shall not apply to Beverages for Medical Use.

**Section 3. This Act shall take effect in 30 days.**