

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

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H1/19/17 H1/20/17 H1/25/17 S2/28/17*

91st General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2017

HOUSE BILL 1035

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

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO RESTRICT PURCHASES USING FOOD STAMP BENEFITS; TO REQUIRE RECIPIENTS OF FOOD STAMPS TO SHOW IDENTIFICATION TO USE FOOD STAMP BENEFITS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO RESTRICT PURCHASES USING FOOD STAMP BENEFITS; AND TO REQUIRE RECIPIENTS OF FOOD STAMPS TO SHOW IDENTIFICATION TO USE FOOD STAMP BENEFITS.

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

SECTION 1. Legislative findings and intent.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

20-76-216. Use of food stamps for food and food products.

(a)(1) As used in this section, "food" and "food products" mean substances, whether in liquid, concentrated, solid, frozen, dried, or dehydrated form, that are sold for ingestion or chewing by humans and are consumed for their taste or nutritional value.

(2) "Food" and "food products" include prepared protein.

(3) "Food" and "food products" do not include candy, soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, energy drinks, or dietary supplements.

(b) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the food stamp program, shall allow benefits to be used only for food and food products.

(c) The Department of Human Services shall prohibit the use of benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the food stamp program, for items that do not meet the definition of "food" and "food products" under subsection (a) of this section.

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

20-76-217. Identification required to use food stamps benefits.

The Department of Human Services shall request a waiver from the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture to:

(1) Require recipients of benefits within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the food stamp program, to:

(A) Show identification before using benefits on an

electronic benefit transfer system card; and

(B) Sign a paper card or form to authorize up to three (3) other individuals within the household to use the electronic benefit transfer system card of the recipient; and

(2) Require a vendor to request a form of identification before using benefits on an electronic benefit transfer system card, including without limitation:

(A) A driver's license;

(B) A birth certificate or similar document;

(C) A work or school identification card;

(D) An identification card for health benefits or other assistance;

(E) A voter registration card;

(F) A paycheck stub containing the name of the person; or

(G) Other documents that reasonably establish the identification of the person.

/s/Bentley