

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2148

By: Representative Penzo

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT REGARDING THE USE OF SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) BENEFITS AND PUBLIC BENEFIT CARDS; TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) BENEFITS FUNDS TO PURCHASE LUXURY FOOD ITEMS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) BENEFITS FUNDS TO PURCHASE LUXURY FOOD ITEMS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 76, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

20-76-114. Restrictions on use of public benefit cards.

(a)(1) The Department of Human Services shall work in conjunction with the Department of Health to develop a list of luxury food items.

(2)(A) The list of luxury food items shall include without limitation:

(i) Food items that are not conducive to human health, or are injurious to human health; and

(ii) Food items that are high in calories, sugar, and fat with negligible nutritional value.

(B) The list shall be developed using the nutritional standards recommended by the United States Department of Agriculture.



(b) The Department of Human Services shall ensure that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are used only to purchase food items that are not deemed luxury food items by the Department of Human Services.

(c) The Department of Human Services shall seek a waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture to implement this section.