

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1962

By: Representative Vaught
By: Senators B. Davis, C. Penzo, C. Tucker

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING ULTRA-PROCESSED FOODS IN SCHOOLS;
TO PROHIBIT A SCHOOL FROM SERVING OR SELLING ULTRA-
PROCESSED FOOD ON THE SCHOOL CAMPUS DURING THE NORMAL
SCHOOL DAY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO PROHIBIT A SCHOOL FROM SERVING OR
SELLING ULTRA-PROCESSED FOOD ON THE
SCHOOL CAMPUS DURING THE NORMAL SCHOOL
DAY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 7, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-18-724. Ultra-processed food – Prohibition – Definition.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Childhood obesity, morbidity, and wellness are matters of statewide concern;

(2) Ultra-processed, industrially manufactured, nutrient-depleted food with synthetic additives is undernourishing to students at schools and contributes to childhood obesity; and

(3) A meal or snack offered to students at schools in this state should be nutritious and made primarily of nutrient-dense plant or animal products.

(b) As used in this section:

(1) "School" means:



- (A) A public school district;
- (B) An open-enrollment public charter school; or
- (C) A private school; and

(2) "Ultra-processed food" means a food or beverage that contains one (1) or more of the following ingredients:

- (A) Potassium bromate;
- (B) Propylparaben;
- (C) Titanium dioxide;
- (D) Yellow dye 5;
- (E) Yellow dye 6;
- (F) Blue dye 1;
- (G) Blue dye 2;
- (H) Green dye 3;
- (I) Red dye 3; or
- (J) Red dye 40.

(c) A school shall not serve or sell on the school campus during the normal school day ultra-processed food that is produced after January 1, 2028.

(d) This section does not prevent a parent, legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis to a student from providing ultra-processed food to his or her child during the normal school day.

(e) The Department of Education may promulgate rules to implement this section.