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SNAP Funds Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Kristen Chevrier

Senate Sponsor:

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LONG TITLE

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General Description:

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This bill enacts provisions related to the Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program.

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Highlighted Provisions:

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This bill:

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▸ enacts provisions related to Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);

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▸ requires the Department of Workforce Services (department) to request a waiver from the

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federal government regarding the use of SNAP benefits for certain foods;

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▸ requires the department to:

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• implement the waiver within a certain period of time upon approval of the waiver; and

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• if the waiver is denied, reapply until a waiver is approved; and

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▸ has reporting requirements.

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Money Appropriated in this Bill:

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None

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Other Special Clauses:

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None

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Utah Code Sections Affected:

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ENACTS:

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35A-17-101, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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35A-17-102, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

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Section 1. Section **35A-17-101** is enacted to read:

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Part 1. SNAP Benefits Waiver

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35A-17-101 . Definitions.

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As used in this section:

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

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combination with chocolate, fruit, nuts, or other ingredients or flavorings in the form of

31 bars, drops, or pieces, and does not require refrigeration.

32 (2) "SNAP" means the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, 7 U.S.C.
33 Chapter 51.

34 (3) "SNAP benefit" means a financial benefit, coupon, or privilege available under SNAP.

35 (4)(a) "Soft drink" means a nonalcoholic beverage that is made with carbonated water
36 and that is flavored and sweetened with sugar or artificial sweeteners.

37 (b) "Soft drink" does not include a beverage that contains milk, milk products, soy, rice,
38 or other milk substitutes, or that is greater than 50% vegetable or fruit juice by
39 volume.

40 Section 2. Section **35A-17-102** is enacted to read:

41 **35A-17-102 . SNAP waiver request -- Requirements -- Reporting.**

42 (1)(a) The department shall submit a request for a federal waiver to the United States
43 Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, to authorize the department
44 to prohibit the use of SNAP benefits for the purchase of:

45 (i) candy; and

46 (ii) soft drinks.

47 (b) The waiver request described in Subsection (1)(a) shall include:

48 (i) justification for the waiver, including:

49 (A) public health concerns;

50 (B) SNAP's statutory intent; and

51 (C) cost savings to taxpayers;

52 (ii) an implementation plan to ensure that existing point-of-sale systems used by Utah
53 retailers are able to enforce the waiver restrictions;

54 (iii) a strategy for education and outreach to inform SNAP recipients of alternative
55 healthy food options; and

56 (iv) a mechanism to track the impact of the waiver restrictions on SNAP recipients,
57 including:

58 (A) spending patterns; and

59 (B) health outcomes.

60 (2)(a) If the waiver under Subsection (1) is approved by Food and Nutrition Services,
61 the department shall implement the SNAP benefits restriction under Subsection (1)
62 no later than six months after the date on which the waiver is granted.

63 (b) If the waiver under Subsection (1) is denied, the department shall:

64 (i) resubmit the request for a waiver no later than three months after the date on

- 65 which the waiver is denied; and
- 66 (ii) resubmit the request annually until a waiver approval is granted.
- 67 (3)(a) On or before November 1 of each year, the department shall provide a written
- 68 report to the Economic Development and Workforce Services Interim Committee
- 69 detailing:
- 70 (i) the status of the waiver request;
- 71 (ii) data on SNAP spending patterns in Utah;
- 72 (iii) any identified challenges with SNAP; and
- 73 (iv) any recommendations for further policy action.
- 74 (b) The report described in Subsection (3)(a) shall be included in the department's
- 75 annual report in accordance with Section 35A-1-109.
- 76 Section 3. **Effective Date.**
- 77 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.