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SNAP Funds Amendments
2026 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 addresses the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

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Highlighted Provisions:

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This bill:

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▸ defines "ultra-processed food";

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▸ amends the requirement for the Department of Workforce Services to request a waiver

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from the federal government regarding the use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance

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Program funds for certain foods; and

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▸ makes technical and conforming changes.

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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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AMENDS:

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35A-17-101, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 467

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35A-17-102, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 467

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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 amended to read:

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35A-17-101 . Definitions.

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As used in this section:

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(1) "SNAP" means the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, 7 U.S.C.

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Chapter 51.

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

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(3)(a) "Soft drink" means a nonalcoholic beverage that is made with carbonated water

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and that is flavored and sweetened with sugar or artificial sweeteners.

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

34 (4)(a) "Ultra-processed food" means:

35 (b) food containing additives and that is high in saturated fat, sodium, or added sugars; or

36 (c) if the United States Department of Health and Human Services defines this term, the
37 definition determined by the United States Department of Health and Human
38 Services shall apply.

39 Section 2. Section **35A-17-102** is amended to read:

40 **35A-17-102 . SNAP waiver request -- Requirements -- Reporting.**

41 (1)(a) On or before July 1, 2025, the department shall submit a request for a federal
42 waiver to the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service,
43 to authorize the department to prohibit the use of SNAP benefits for the purchase of:

44 (i) soft drinks[-] ; and

45 (ii) ultra-processed food.

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

47 (i) justification for the waiver, including:

48 (A) public health concerns;

49 (B) SNAP's statutory intent; and

50 (C) cost savings to taxpayers;

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

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

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

57 (A) spending patterns; and

58 (B) health outcomes.

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

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

63 (i) resubmit the request for a waiver no later than three months after the day on which
64 the waiver is denied; and

65 (ii) resubmit the request annually until a waiver approval is granted.

66 (3)(a) On or before November 1 of each year, the department shall provide a written
67 report to the Economic Development and Workforce Services Interim Committee
68 detailing:

69 (i) the status of the waiver request;

70 (ii) data on SNAP spending patterns in Utah;

71 (iii) any identified challenges with SNAP; and

72 (iv) any recommendations for further policy action.

73 (b) The report described in Subsection (3)(a) shall be included in the department's
74 annual report in accordance with Section 35A-1-109.

75 Section 3. **Effective Date.**

76 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.