

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5897

As of March 28, 2017

Title: An act relating to food assistance programs.

Brief Description: Prohibiting the purchase of certain foods under food assistance programs.

Sponsors: Senators Rossi, Brown, Braun, Becker, Walsh, Schoesler, Honeyford and Zeiger.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Ways & Means: 3/28/17.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Establishes that eligible foods in the Food Assistance Program do not include sweetened beverages, desserts, and candy.
- Requires the Department of Social and Health Services to seek all necessary exemptions and waivers from, and amendments to, federal statutes, rules, and regulations to authorize Washington State to prohibit the purchase of sweetened beverages, desserts, and candy with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Staff: Maria Hovde (786-7474)

Background: The Food Assistance Program (FAP) is a state-funded program that provides food assistance to legal immigrants who are ineligible for federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits solely because of their alien status. Applicants must otherwise meet all the eligibility requirements of SNAP including, but not limited to, income and asset limits.

Summary of Bill: For the purposes of the FAP, eligible foods does not include sweetened beverages, desserts, and candy.

The Department of Social and Health Services must seek all necessary exemptions and waivers from, and amendments to, federal statutes, rules, and regulations to authorize

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Washington State to prohibit the purchase of sweetened beverages, desserts, and candy with SNAP benefits.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on March 23, 2017.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.