



NEW HAMPSHIRE SENATE

NEWS RELEASE

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Senator Victoria Sullivan Files Bill to Protect Food Stamp Program Integrity and Make New Hampshire Healthy Again

Concord, NH — New Hampshire State Senator Victoria Sullivan (R-Manchester) filed legislation to protect food stamp benefits for truly needy Granite Staters, and direct taxpayer dollars toward healthy, nutritious foods:

These reforms to New Hampshire’s food stamp program will ensure the program works as it was designed and will protect the state from changes in federal law that penalize high payment error rates. Redirecting benefits toward nutritious foods by banning the purchase of soda and candy will promote healthier diets and better long-term health outcomes for recipients. Strengthening program integrity by verifying eligibility more frequently, cross-checking data, and closing loopholes will improve program sustainability and accountability to taxpayers. Reinforcing work requirements will also help able-bodied adults move from dependency to self-sufficiency by connecting them with jobs, training, and volunteer opportunities that strengthen New Hampshire communities.

LSR 2026-2274, *An Act Relative to the Use and Regulation of EBT Cards and SNAP Eligibility*, takes commonsense steps to protect taxpayers and promote healthier families. The bill would:

- **Ban junk food and soda from food stamps:** The bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to request federal approval to stop food stamp purchases of candy and soft drinks.
- **Promote work and self-sufficiency:** It ensures able-bodied adults without dependents meet existing federal work requirements—without state-level exemptions that weaken accountability.
- **Crack down on waste and fraud:** It requires the state to use data-sharing agreements with state and federal agencies, more robust eligibility verification procedures, and processes to monitor EBT transactions to confirm that benefits are only going to New Hampshire residents.
- **Safeguard benefits for American citizens:** The bill establishes robust citizenship verification standards so benefits only go to citizens and qualified immigrants and requires the department to refer anyone they determine to be in this country illegally to federal authorities.

“The food stamp program was created to help the truly vulnerable, but it has fallen far from that purpose. Today, taxpayer dollars are being used to buy candy, soda, and other junk food that fuel obesity and chronic disease instead of providing healthy nutrition for low-income children, pregnant women, and the elderly. We cannot keep feeding a public health crisis with taxpayer money,” **said Senator Sullivan**. “This bill restores common sense by ensuring food stamps are used for real food, strengthening work requirements to help people move from welfare to work, and verifying eligibility so that benefits go only

to those who truly qualify. New Hampshire families deserve a program that promotes health, accountability, and independence.”

BACKGROUND: Attached is LSR 2026-2274 for review.

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