

SENATE BILL NO. 186

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS WIELECHOWSKI, Cronk

Introduced: 4/25/25

Referred: Health and Social Services, Community and Regional Affairs

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to removing soft drinks from the food stamp program; and providing**
2 **for an effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 47.25.990(2) is amended to read:

5 (2) "food" means any food or food product for human consumption
6 except alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, and tobacco and includes seeds and plants for
7 use in gardens to produce food for the personal consumption of the eligible household;

8 * **Sec. 2.** AS 47.25.990 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

9 (5) "soft drink" means a nonalcoholic beverage containing natural or
10 artificial sweeteners; "soft drink" does not include beverages that contain milk, milk
11 products, soy, rice, or other milk substitutes, or greater than 50 percent vegetable or
12 fruit juice by volume.

13 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
14 read:

1 WAIVER. The Department of Health shall, as necessary for federal approval, submit a
2 request to the food and nutrition service of the United States Department of Agriculture for
3 any waiver necessary to implement secs. 1 and 2 of this Act.

4 * **Sec. 4.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
5 read:

6 CONDITIONAL EFFECT; NOTIFICATION. (a) Sections 1 and 2 of this Act take
7 effect only if, on or before July 1, 2027, the United States Department of Agriculture

8 (1) approves the waiver to the state program submitted in accordance with sec.
9 3 of this Act; or

10 (2) determines that approval of the waiver to the state program submitted in
11 accordance with sec. 3 of this Act is not necessary.

12 (b) The commissioner of health shall notify the revisor of statutes in writing within 30
13 days after the United States Department of Agriculture approves the waiver to the state
14 program or determines that approval of the waiver is not necessary under this section.

15 * **Sec. 5.** If secs. 1 and 2 of this Act take effect, they take effect on the day after the date the
16 United States Department of Agriculture approves the waiver to the state program or
17 determines that approval of the waiver is not necessary.