

**Senate File 76 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 76

BY SINCLAIR

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act requiring the department of human services to request  
2 permission from the United States department of agriculture  
3 to restrict the use of food assistance benefits for certain  
4 items.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - AUTHORITY TO RESTRICT  
2 USE OF BENEFITS. The department of human services shall submit  
3 a request to the United States department of agriculture for  
4 authorization for a waiver, pilot project, or other approach  
5 for restricting the use of food assistance benefits, as  
6 administered by the state under the federal supplemental  
7 nutrition assistance program, for food items that are beverages  
8 requiring payment of a refund value or deposit. The request  
9 shall be submitted within sixty days of the effective date of  
10 this Act. The department shall regularly report on the status  
11 of the request to the members of the joint appropriations  
12 subcommittee on health and human services and the legislative  
13 services agency.

14 EXPLANATION

15 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
16 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

17 This bill requires the department of human services to  
18 submit a request to the federal government for permission to  
19 stray from the federal guidelines so as to restrict the use of  
20 food assistance benefits, previously known as food stamps, for  
21 food items that are beverages requiring payment of a refund  
22 value or deposit. The department is to submit the request  
23 within 60 days of the effective date of the bill. The bill  
24 directs the department to submit regular reports on the status  
25 of the request.