

Retailer Notice

Louisiana Bans Soft Drinks, Energy Drinks, and Candy from SNAP EBT

Beginning February 18, 2026, Louisiana SNAP retailers cannot accept SNAP EBT payments for soft drinks, energy drinks, or candy.

“Soft drinks” means any carbonated non-alcoholic beverage containing high fructose corn syrup or artificial sweeteners. The term does not include flavored carbonated water, beverages that contain milk, milk products, soy rice, or milk substitutes. Beverages containing 50% or more of vegetable or fruit juice by volume will remain SNAP eligible.

“Energy drinks” means any carbonated or non-carbonated beverages that contain a stimulant such as fortified caffeine, guarana, glucuronolactone, or taurine that are specifically formulated and marketed to enhance energy, alertness, or physical performance.

“Candy” means a preparation of sugar, honey, or other natural or artificial sweeteners in combination with chocolate, fruits, nuts, or other ingredients or flavorings in the form of bars, drops, or pieces. This definition does not include protein bars, granola bars, or baking ingredients.

You will need to comply with these changes. **If you do not comply, FNS may withdraw your SNAP authorization, and you will no longer be able to accept SNAP EBT.**

For more information on Louisiana’s SNAP Food Restrictions, please visit ldh.la.gov/SNAPWaiver, “For Retailers” section.

If you have questions, please email LDH.SNAPRetailers@la.gov or call 225-342-2342.

To learn more, please review the [Louisiana SNAP Food Restriction Waiver](#). For a complete list of states implementing similar changes, visit USDA’s [SNAP Food Restriction Waivers](#).

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For more information visit USDA’s [SNAP Retailer Webpage](#).