

American Legion Auxiliary  
New Mexico Girls State  
**Bill Instruction Sheet**



Principal Author: Sierra Whitfield

Bill No: 345 Committee: A

Status:

Passed by: ☒ Committee ☐ House ☐ Senate ☐ Governor

Tabled by: ☐ Committee ☐ House ☐ Senate ☐ Governor

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Simple Title of Bill: Tax on Sugar Based, Non-Produce/processed Foods to Pay for Healthcare Services (AKA The Junk Food Tax)

BILL

**70<sup>TH</sup> SESSION – AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEW MEXICO GIRLS STATE – 2017**

INTRODUCED BY

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH; DECREASE IN OBESITY; INCREASE FUNDS IN  
HEALTHCARE

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEW  
MEXICO GIRLS STATE:

All laws, acts, provisions, or parts of laws contained in the Constitution of the State of New Mexico in conflict with any provision of this act are hereby repealed.

- A. "Non-produce foods" means that the food products are not farm-produced crops and goods, including fruits and vegetables – meats, grains, oats, etc
- B. "Processed foods" means any deliberate change in a food that occurs before it's available for us to eat.
- C. "Heart Disease" means a disease in which a waxy substance called plaque builds up inside the coronary arteries from food-related risk factors include obesity, high blood pressure, uncontrolled diabetes and a diet high in saturated fats.
- D. "Type-2 Diabetes" means a long-term metabolic disorder that is characterized by high blood sugar, insulin resistance, and relative lack of insulin.

The taxation of non-produce and processed foods, in New Mexico's grocery stores, that have higher than 10 g of sugar or 100 mg of sodium by a 4% tax will not only cut down individuals purchasing said foods, but the stipulation for the amount of money being taxed on those foods will go to healthcare services and health providers. More than one-third of adults and 17 percent of youth in the United States are obese and face many physical issues such as an increase risk for cancer, Type-2 diabetes, and heart disease.

Researchers at Drexel University surveyed residents of Philadelphia both before and after a 1.5-cent-per-ounce tax on sweetened drinks took effect. They also surveyed people in three other cities that don't have a beverage tax. The researchers found Philadelphians were about 40 percent less likely to drink sweetened beverages daily after the tax went into effect, compared with people in the other cities. At the same time,

Philadelphians' consumption of bottled water, which is not taxed, increased. Also, Public health advocates argue the tax in Philadelphia may help encourage healthy diets and help tackle obesity and Type 2 diabetes. When persons hear that there is taxation of non-produce and processed foods that have higher than 10 g of sugar or 100 mg of sodium, then many will start to look at nutrition facts because they won't want to pay said amount of money for non-produce and processed foods, thus decreasing obesity because individuals are now seeing what they are putting in their bodies. However, there are those who won't care about the taxation and still pay for non-produce and processed foods. The revenue that those persons are spending will go to the healthcare services and healthcare providers for those with lower incomes. The average hospital inpatient day costs roughly \$2,442, before insurance. If a patient stays 5 days then that's a \$12,210 bill; even with insurance it would cost \$6,495. New Mexican's yearly income is roughly \$43,872, that's only \$3,656 a month; that salary wouldn't be able to pay for the hospital bill, considering other bills New Mexican residents pay on a routine basis. The 'junk' food bill will benefit the lower income bracket of New Mexico and hopefully change the lifestyle of eating too much 'junk' food and concentrate on healthier choices, thus reducing the obesity rate in young children.

APPROPRIATIONS: Appropriations for this bill will be minimal by way of printing and announcing the bill. Funds will therefore be appropriated as tax revenue is received from various stores. The process of appropriations will be through the internal revenue service receiving tax revenue from the paying stores. Then in turn, provide funds to the New Mexico medical facilities such as Carlsbad Medical Center, Presbyterian, Lovelace Westside, Cibola General, and Holy Cross hospitals.

All laws, acts, provisions, or parts of laws contained in the Constitution of the State of New Mexico in conflict with any provision of this act are hereby repealed

The provisions of this act shall be effective on and after October 16, 2018.

American Legion Auxiliary  
New Mexico Girls State



Principal Author: Sheyenne Drake

Memorial No: M15 Committee: D

Status:

Passed by: ☒ Committee ☐ House ☐ Senate

Tabled by: ☐ Committee ☐ House ☐ Senate

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Simple Title of Memorial: Encouraging the Involvement of School Personal in Regards to the Maintenance of Students' Mental Heath.

MEMORIAL

**70<sup>TH</sup> SESSION – AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEW MEXICO GIRLS STATE – 2017**

INTRODUCED BY

SHEYENNE DRAKE

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT STRONGER REGULATIONS TO FURTHER ENCOURAGE SCHOOL OFFICIALS SUCH AS COUNSELORS AND OTHER ADMINS TO MAINTAIN THE WELL MENTAL STATE OF STUDENTS AS INDIVIDUALS.

WHEREAS, resources being more prominently advertised to the student body would provide a more welcoming environment to those in question of their current mental state; and

WHEREAS, both nationally, and within the state of New Mexico, the lack of a healthy mental state of a student has shown to result in catastrophic events, considering self-harm, suicide, and the harming of others; and

WHEREAS, counselors performing regular check-ins with students, regardless of previous encounters, but solely in concern with providing contact to individuals unfamiliar with or in question of the counseling system, would in turn result in possible success; and

WHEREAS, the average student spends about 50% of their waking day at school. Therefore, the place as individual receives an education should be considered a safe place; one where a student can confide with appropriate faculty and where this said faculty can be trusted to recognize mental distress; and

WHEREAS, the importance of mental health should be regularly advocated for through awareness weeks, months, through posters, school clubs, etc.,; and

WHEREAS, if throughout the academic year, conferences and workshops were to be held and attended by those affiliated, school personal would be better informed of the evolving signs of mental distress amongst youth; and

WHEREAS, the concern of school administration is centered around the well-being of the student individual, and their overall success is measured by the development of a capable student. In turn, the maintenance of a student's healthy mental state should be a top priority of a place of education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEW MEXICO GIRLS STATE that the New Mexico Public Education Department be requested to implement regulations to more strongly encourage school personal to become both concerned and involved with the betterment of each individual student's mental state, and to take precautionary measures to accomplish so.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the New Mexico Public Education Department, New Mexico Department of Health, and the appropriate New Mexico legislative committees.