

HB2215

January 26, 2022

Nick Reinecker

Rep. Stephen Owens Chair

Proponent

House Corrections and Juvenile Justice

Mr. Chairman and Committee,

It strikes me as ironic that if something has a nutrition label on it (like vanilla extract, which can contain high concentrations of alcohol, or substances like energy drinks and highly processed snack foods) it is "food," and then is subsequently available to buy, possess, and consume using taxpayer money, but certain plants like cannabis, with its protein profile and therapeutic qualities are prohibited. It is also ironic that a person can be punished for growing his or her own actual food (in the form of the afore mentioned botanical) and be banned from receiving assistance to purchase items which have little to no known nutritional value, but I digress.

I am in support of this bill because I am against the government, in this case the state, using legislation to punish those who are able to use their abilities and skills to grow plants. When it comes to synthetic manufacturing of dangerous substances however, I would have no heartburn with bans for welfare food assistance.

USDA Eligible Foods

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligible-food-items>

https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/Accessory_Foods_List.pdf

Including

Snack and Dessert Food Items:

- Doughnuts, brownies, cupcakes, cookies, snack cakes, pastries, sweet rolls, pies, cakes, pudding,
- Mints, chocolate, marshmallow, gum, nougat, candy bars, and candy of all kinds;
- Ice cream, whipped cream, sherbet, sorbet, snow cones, ice pops
- Sugar, honey, maple syrup, aspartame, molasses, high fructose corn syrup, and any other natural or artificial sweeteners;
- Soda pop, sports or energy drinks, iced tea, fruit punch, other carbonated or uncarbonated beverages
- Monosodium glutamate, sodium nitrate, olestra, and any other food additives or any food product that is edible but non-caloric and non-digestible;
- Vanilla extract or other flavor extracts and cooking wine;

FDA

<https://www.fda.gov/food/food-ingredients-packaging/overview-food-ingredients-additives-colors>

<https://www.fda.gov/food/food-additives-petitions/food-additive-status-list>