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HOUSE BILL NO. 786

Offered January 14, 2026

Prefiled January 13, 2026

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-207.4 of the Code of Virginia, relating to school boards; authority to prohibit sale of caffeinated beverages to students in public high schools.

Patron—Austin

Committee Referral Pending

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-207.4 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-207.4. Nutritional guidelines for competitive foods; fundraisers; authority to prohibit sale of caffeinated beverages to students in public high schools.

A. For purposes of this section, "competitive food" means any food, excluding beverages, sold to students on school grounds during regular school hours that is not part of the school breakfast or school lunch program.

B. The Board, in cooperation with the Department of Health, shall promulgate regulations setting nutritional guidelines for all competitive foods.

C. The Board, with assistance from the Department of Health, shall periodically review the nutritional guidelines for competitive foods to ensure that they remain current and science-based and shall also review the nutritional guidelines upon changes to federal law or regulations for competitive foods.

D. The regulations promulgated pursuant to this section shall include but not be limited to: calorie, fat, sugar, and sodium content.

E. The regulations promulgated pursuant to this section shall permit each public school to conduct on school grounds during regular school hours no more than 30 school-sponsored fundraisers per school year, during which food that does not meet the nutrition guidelines for competitive foods may be sold to students.

F. Any school board may prohibit the sale of caffeinated beverages to students in public high schools in the local school division, regardless of whether any such beverage meets the requirements to be considered a diet or low-calorie beverage under any relevant federal regulation.