

# SB-76

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

Mr. Bruski of Alabama introduced the following bill;

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## A BILL

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*Be it enacted by The American Legion Boys Nation Senate assembled,*

### **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "SWEET ACT: Soft Drinks Wellness Education and Excise Tax".

### **SECTION 2. GRADUATED TAX RATES:**

Exempt Tax (no tax)

No tax on soft drinks containing less than 5g of sugar per 12oz

Moderate Tax (0.05 cents per fluid ounce)

Apply a modest tax rate on soft drinks with sugar contents ranging from 5g to 15g per 12 fluid ounces.

High Tax (0.10 cents per fluid ounce)

Apply an increased tax rate on soft drinks with a sugar content greater than 15 grams per 12 fluid ounces.

### **SECTION 3. PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS (70% of tax revenue)**

Obesity Prevention Initiatives (50% of public health budget): The primary goal is to reach out to children early and provide them with the understanding and background they need to make educated choices. The goal is to create lifetime habits of proper nutrition and active living by adopting an integrated health education curriculum, encouraging nutritious school meals, and fostering supportive settings for physical activity. Cooperation with educators, administrators, parents, and healthcare providers can also be included in these programs to create a comprehensive approach to obesity prevention.

Research and Development (30% of public health budget): This department will emphasize public health research initiatives and research, notably those dealing with obesity and its underlying causes. The tax revenue helps create treatments based on evidence, innovative methods, and scientific breakthroughs to address obesity efficiently.

Community Outreach Programs (20% of public health budget): The community outreach department aims to branch across local communities to offer guidance and services and promote healthy lifestyles. For example, setting a portion of the proceeds towards working with local agricultural and culinary businesses to encourage economic growth and create more nutritious food alternatives. These projects will establish community health clinics, nutrition counseling, new recreational sports sites, and cooperation with local groups to tackle particular community needs.

### **SECTION 4. PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS (20% of the tax revenue)**

These efforts aim to increase awareness about the health concerns linked with excessive sugar intake,

advocate healthier options, and give valuable suggestions for sugar reduction.

In order to reach a broad audience, the campaign will use television, radio, print media, and online platforms. Stories, shows, and articles will be shared to catch the attention of people of all demographics. The material will highlight the harmful health impacts of sugary drinks, such as a higher probability of obesity, diabetes, and heart disease.

Since younger generations are very engaged in smartphones, using social media platforms will be essential in addressing the risks of obesity. Social media platforms will share vital data, compelling images, educational films, and interactive material to combat the bad habits that start at a young age.

#### **SECTION 5. STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT (5% of the tax revenue)**

The funding will enable legislators to communicate with industry stakeholders such as beverage manufacturers, supermarkets, and retailers during the tax policy formulation process. With monthly meetings, the policymakers will collect feedback and work to establish an agreement considering public health priorities and commercial feasibility.

#### **SECTION 6. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS (5% of the tax revenue)**

This financing is necessary for a comprehensive economic analysis of the tax's potential consequences on the industry, employment market, and overall gross domestic product. This study can shape the tax system to reduce negative effects and improve its long-term sustainability.

#### **SECTION 7. EXEMPTIONS INCLUDE:**

Companies with a yearly turnover of less than \$1 million will be omitted from the soft drinks industry levy, reinforcing their economic sustainability while focusing tax collection on larger enterprises.

The Tax does not apply to beverages with no added sugar or sweeteners, including pure fruit juice, milk-based drinks, and liquids with a high milk concentration.