



DOAA

Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

January 9, 2026

Honorable Martin Momtahan
Chairman, Code Revision
501-A Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
House Bill (LC 46 1269)

Dear Chairman Momtahan:

The bill prohibits the purchase of certain food and beverage items with federal SNAP benefits, such as candy, soft drinks etc. The Department of Human Services (DHS) would be required to submit a formal waiver request to the US Department of Agriculture for a waiver or demonstration project to implement these purchasing restrictions and provide a written report on the status of the waiver application. If approved, the Division of Family and Children Services would be required to update administrative systems and guidance, notify SNAP retailers, distribute informational materials to recipients, and submit a report summarizing the health outcomes and implementation of the waiver, among other requirements. The bill has no effective date.

The DHS Division of Family and Children Services would incur additional costs to implement the provisions of the bill. As shown in Table 1, one-time costs are estimated at approximately \$386,000, while annual costs for additional staff needed to meet reporting requirements would be approximately \$360,000.

Table 1: One-Time and Annual Costs for LC 46 1269

	Costs
One-Time	
Health Study	\$350,000
Written Notice to Retailers	<u>\$36,134</u>
One-Time Total	\$386,134
Ongoing	
Staffing	Up to \$360,152

Details of the costs are described below:

- **Health Study** – DHS would be required to initiate and maintain a study of health outcomes from the legislation. The estimate of \$350,000 is for a contract with a research organization, with the expenditures occurring over the course of the project.
- **Written Notice** – A one-time cost of \$36,134 includes the printing and mailing of written notice updates to all current SNAP retailers across the state.

- **Staffing** – An annual staff cost of \$360,152 includes three new employees with benefits. These employees would support research, conduct data collection/monitoring, and create reports as outlined by the proposed legislation. The number of staff is dependent on the complexity of the required reporting, including the program's impact on health outcomes, retailer compliance and system implementation, unintended consequences or access barriers, and recommendations.

Respectfully,



Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor



Richard Dunn, Director
Office of Planning and Budget

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