

American Legion Auxiliary
New Mexico Girls State
Bill



Principal Author: Zara Roy

Bill No: 19 Committee: G

Status:

Passed by: Committee House Senate Governor

Tabled by: Committee House Senate Governor

Other: _____

Simple Title of Bill: Low-Income Hygienic Living Act

1 HOUSE BILL

2 **72nd SESSION – AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEW MEXICO GIRLS STATE – 2019**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 *Zara Roy*

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AN ACT

8 RELATING TO RELIEF FOR THOSE UNABLE TO PURCHASE BASIC HYGIENIC

9 PRODUCTS UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

10 AMONG LOW-INCOME GROUPS; PROVIDING HYGIENIC PRODUCTS TO THOSE IN

11 POVERTY; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN

12 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR HYGIENIC PRODUCTS.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEW

14 MEXICO GIRLS STATE:

1 SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. - SNAP- acronym for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
2 Program

3 WIC- "Women, Infants, and Children", A branch of SNAP

4 SECTION 2. PROVISIONS. - The state of New Mexico shall create an assistance program
5 which provides low-income families who qualify for the federal SNAP program access to
6 basic hygienic and health products not otherwise accessible with SNAP and WIC benefits;
7 these items include:

8 a) baby diapers and wipes

9 b) basic toiletries such as soaps and toilet paper

10 c) menstrual hygiene products

11 d) dental hygiene products

12 e) bandages and over-the-counter medications not covered through

13 Medicare/Medicaid

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15 Eligibility for this program will go to those who have already applied for SNAP/WIC benefits
16 whose current household income is below \$30,000/year for a family of four.

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18 The federal assistance program SNAP is designed to help low-income groups pay for food
19 items and groceries, but do not allow for the purchase of hygiene items such as diapers,
20 menstrual hygiene items, and dental hygiene items. Adequate access to personal hygiene
21 is equally as important to a person's health as access to healthy foods. With a lack of funds
22 to buy an adequate amount of diapers, parents must often resort to less frequent diaper
23 changes, which, for the infant, can lead to dermatitis and urinary tracts infections. As
24 Medicare does not generally offer adult dental plans, many are left without appropriate
25 access to oral hygiene items, and no way to treat dental diseases unless

1 under the most extreme of circumstances. Women from low-income families are often
2 unable to attend school or work due to an inability to afford sanitary products during
3 menstruation, bringing families further into economic disadvantage than they previously
4 were. The items listed above are not so-called "luxury items", but products that are vital to
5 the maintenance of a healthy lifestyle; yet many economically-disadvantaged groups are
6 living with compromised health due to the inability to obtain these necessary products. It
7 may also be presented that personal hygiene products do not need to be purchased as
8 frequently as food items, so less money would need to be allocated for this program than
9 SNAP. Hygiene is a cornerstone of good health, and by denying the right to hygiene, one is
10 denying the right to healthy living.

11 SECTION 3. PENALTY. -

12 SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION. - one-hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) will be
13 appropriated from the general fund to the New Mexico Department of Health for
14 expenditure in the fiscal year 2019 towards the creation of a state assistance program
15 which provides hygiene products to those who meet the criteria for qualification into the
16 program. Any unencumbered funds remaining in the balance at the end of the fiscal year
17 2019 shall revert back to the general fund.

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

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21 This act shall become effective 90 days after it's passage and approval by the American
22 Legion Auxiliary New Mexico Girls State Governor or it's otherwise becoming a law.