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Alabama bans soda, candy on SNAP

If USDA approves it, change set to take effect Oct. 1

Jennifer Lindahl
Montgomery Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

Gov. Kay Ivey signed legislation Wednesday restricting SNAP purchases of sugary foods and drinks, a move supporters say promotes healthier eating. SB 57, sponsored by Arthur Orr, was

approved by the Alabama Legislature earlier this year.

"We are promoting healthier diets for Alabama SNAP beneficiaries by restricting the purchase of sugary foods that contribute to obesity and diabetes," Ivey said in a statement.

The law requires approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees SNAP, before taking effect.

What is Alabama's obesity rate?

Alabama has one of the nation's highest obesity rates, according to the Trust for America's Health "State of

Obesity" report.

About 38.9% of adults in the state had obesity in 2024, while 22.8% of children ages 6 to 17 were affected in 2022-23.

What items would be restricted under Alabama's SNAP rule?

Under the law, SNAP recipients would be unable to use benefits for certain sugary items, such as soda and candy. The law provides specific definitions for these restricted items, which directly affect what food recipients can buy with SNAP.

Candy (restricted):

The bill defines candy as products where sugar or sweeteners are a primary ingredient, such as:

- Chocolate bars
- Non-chocolate candy
- Chewing gum
- Other sugar-based confections

Not considered candy:

Some sweet items would still qualify for SNAP purchases, including:

- Baked goods like cakes and cookies
- Baking mixes
- Jams and jellies

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Vocal victory



Mobile County native Alexia Jayy, pictured on the "Finale Top 4" episode, was crowned the Season 29 winner of "The Voice" during the finale on April 14. PROVIDED BY GRIFFIN NAGEL/NBC

Mobile County native Alexia Jayy wins 'The Voice'

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Mobile County native Alexia Jayy was crowned the Season 29 winner of "The Voice" during Tuesday's finale.

The 31-year-old R&B singer, who performed on Team Levine, quickly emerged as a frontrunner this season after earning the rare three-chair turn, signaling early support from the coaches.

Who is Alexia Jayy? Get to know the Alabama native and her journey to being crowned this season's winner on "The Voice."

Who is Alexia Jayy?

Bri Jackson, known professionally as Jayy, grew up in Irvington, Mobile County, Alabama. She chose her stage name by taking "Alexia" from her middle name and "Jayy" from Jackson. Balancing a rising music career, she is also a mother of three.

She began singing at age 2, finding her connection to music early. By age 9, she was performing at Amateur Night at the Apollo Theater, a world-famous stage.

Jayy also has strong ties to Alabama's higher education and music communities. She attended Miles College, a historically Black college in Fairfield, Alabama, where she sang in the Miles College

Choir, according to a celebratory Facebook post from the College.

Standout Performances on "The Voice"

Throughout the season, Jayy captivated audiences with memorable performances, each of which built her momentum.

Her three-chair turner performance of "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman" during Blind Auditions set the stage for a consistent fan-driven push through the competition.

She victoriously sang her way through battles with performances of "Nightshift" and "You Give Good Love."

In the semifinals, her rendition of Aretha Franklin's "I Never Loved a Man (The Way I Love You)" secured her a place in the finale. She followed that with performances of "Lady Marmalade" and Adele's "One and Only," which helped solidify her win.

Jayy ultimately finished first in the competition, ahead of Team Kelly's Liv Ciara, who placed second. Team Legend's Lucas West finished third, followed by Mikenley Brown in fourth place.

Jennifer Lindahl is a Breaking and Trending Reporter in Alabama for USA TODAY's Deep South Connect Team. Connect with her on X @jenn_lindahl and email at jllindahl@usatodayco.com.

AL still observes Confederate Memorial Day in April

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The fourth Monday in April is a state-recognized holiday known as Confederate Memorial Day.

Alabama is one of four states that officially recognize the 250,000 Confederate soldiers who lost their lives.

Despite repeated attempts by some lawmakers to remove it from the state holiday calendar, those efforts have failed to advance, keeping the observance intact across the state.

Here's what to know about Confederate Memorial Day and when Alabama celebrates.

What is Confederate Memorial Day and when did it originate?

Confederate Memorial Day traces back to 1866 when the Ladies Memorial Association of Columbus, Georgia, called on southern communities to set aside a day each year to honor Confederate soldiers who died in the Civil War.

It is estimated that more than 600,000 soldiers died in the Civil War, and about 260,000 of those soldiers were Confederate soldiers.

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A Confederate flag flies over grave markers of Confederate soldiers in Oakwood Cemetery in Montgomery on Confederate Memorial Day on April 27, 2020.

MICKEY WELSH/ADVERTISER FILE

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