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# High school junk-food ban in the trash

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High school students can relax.

A bill that would ban soft-drink and junk-food sales on Arizona's high school campuses is going nowhere.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Mark Anderson, R-Mesa, said Wednesday that he has been unable to muster enough support for legislation that would give high schools money in exchange for getting rid of Twinkies and Coca-Cola.

The first 50 high schools that signed up would have been eligible for one-time bonuses as an incentive to switch to healthful snacks and drinks.

The bill ran into heavy opposition from soft-drink companies, and even changing House Bill 2557 to make it voluntary wasn't enough to move it through the House K-12 Education Committee.

Last year, Arizona became one of a handful of states to ban sales of soft drinks and junk food in elementary and middle schools. That law goes into effect in July.

There is always the possibility the high school bill could resurface this legislative session, but that appears unlikely. Anderson said most legislators want to see how the elementary and middle school law plays out before deciding whether to extend the ban to high schools.

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