



For Immediate Release
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Ban on Sale of Sugared Sports Drinks at Schools Moves Forward

Sacramento – Senate Bill 1255 by Senator Alex Padilla (D-Pacoima) was approved today by the Assembly Education Committee. SB 1255 would ban the sale of sugar-sweetened electrolyte replacement beverages (sports drinks) at public schools during school hours. Current law prohibits the sale of soft drinks at schools during school hours but the way that the law was written allows sugared sport drinks. SB 1255 would close that loophole. The bill has already been approved by the State Senate.

“We have prohibited the sale of soft drinks at schools during the school day to improve both the health and academic focus of California’s children, SB 1255 continues that effort,” said Senator Padilla. “This is a common sense step forward in the effort to address the obesity epidemic.”

Childhood obesity has become an epidemic in the United States and particularly in California. It is the primary cause of type-2 diabetes and other long-term health problems. Studies have consistently found that greater consumption of sweetened beverages is associated with overweight and obesity among both children and adults.

According to the California Department of Public Health, electrolyte replacement beverages are overwhelmingly replacing sodas as the beverage of choice for school-age children. Recent studies show that instead of replacing soda with water and other healthier beverages, students are buying sugar-sweetened electrolyte replacement beverages, beverages commonly known as sports drinks. In fact, eight of the top 10 beverages sold a la carte in California public high schools are electrolyte replacement beverages.

SB 1255 is sponsored by Governor Schwarzenegger. The vote was 5-2. The bill will next be heard in the Assembly Health Committee.

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