Proposed legislation directs the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) to develop and implement a program whereby fresh food is incorporated into school-provided lunches at certain schools. Proposed legislation provides that the Department of Education (LDE) shall administer the program. LDE and LDAF shall collaboratively provide an inventory of food distribution companies with which public schools or school districts may contract; disseminate procurement guidelines, school food safety information, and liability insurance requirements to food distribution companies that can potentially contract with schools and school districts for the implementation of the pilot program; and consult with the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, the Southern University Agricultural Center, the Louisiana Farm to School Alliance, and other stakeholders, as necessary.

**EXPENDITURES EXPLANATION**

There will be increased SGF costs of $400,386 in FY 23 to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) to develop and administer the Lifestyle Choices pilot program. Costs related to IT programming may be lower in FY 24 and are indeterminable in subsequent years. Funding for this program will depend upon appropriation by the legislature.

The LDE reports it will require $201,999 in FY 23 for one (1) Education Program Consultant 3 position ($72,010 salary and $32,405 related benefits) and one (1) Education Program Consultant 2 position ($67,299 salary and $30,285 related benefits). The LDE also reports it will require $7,115 in operating expenses and $100,000 in professional services costs for an IT programmer who will incorporate a menu planning application into the existing online applications for school systems (Division of Nutrition Support’s Child Nutrition Program online application) and link to existing agricultural systems that list producers and products in Louisiana. This online addition would also incorporate training and tutorials, and would connect with a nutrient analysis system to ensure that the recipes meet USDA specifications. Note: While the LDE reports that it will require $100,000 in professional services for the IT programmer each year, the LFO is unable to determine whether these costs are for the initial programming and the amount of recurring costs.

The LDAF reports it will require $78,551 for one (1) Food Distribution Program Manager position ($51,345 salary and $27,206 related benefits). The Food Distribution Program Manager is expected to serve as a liaison between the LDAF and the LDE as they collaboratively implement the pilot program. The LDAF reports it will also require $8,696 in travel-related expenses, and $4,025 in equipment and office supplies.

Note: The LDE and LDAF assume that personal services costs will increase after FY 23 by 4% annually.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.