

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 5

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE: Requests state agencies administering public assistance programs to ensure that state employees enrolled in those programs are eligible for benefits

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health, the Department of Children and  
3 Family Services, and the Louisiana Department of Education to ensure that state  
4 employees enrolled in public assistance programs of those agencies are eligible for  
5 benefits.

6 WHEREAS, Louisiana's major public assistance programs include the following:

7 (1) The medical assistance program administered by the Louisiana Department of  
8 Health pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act and known commonly as Medicaid.

9 (2) The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children  
10 administered by the Louisiana Department of Health and known commonly as WIC.

11 (3) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program administered by the Department  
12 of Children and Family Services formerly known as "food stamps" and now known  
13 commonly as SNAP.

14 (4) The following cash assistance programs administered by the Department of  
15 Children and Family Services as part of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families  
16 program of this state:

17 (a) The Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (cash assistance  
18 program for needy individuals and families).

19 (b) The Kinship Care Subsidy Program (providing cash assistance on behalf of  
20 children in low-income families who reside with qualified relatives other than parents).

1           (5) The Child Care Assistance Program administered by the Louisiana Department  
2 of Education which provides financial assistance to low-income individuals for child care  
3 while those individuals are working or attending school; and

4           WHEREAS, in December of 2020, one million eight hundred seventeen thousand  
5 five hundred thirty persons - a figure representing nearly forty percent of the entire  
6 population of this state - were enrolled in the Louisiana Medicaid program, making Medicaid  
7 the largest of this state's public assistance programs in terms of number of enrollees; and

8           WHEREAS, the second-largest of this state's public assistance programs in terms of  
9 number of enrollees is SNAP, through which nine hundred eighty-one thousand seven  
10 hundred fifty-one individuals received nutrition assistance benefits in January of 2021; and

11           WHEREAS, with respect to administration of public assistance programs, the term  
12 "program integrity" refers to actions by the administering agency to detect and prevent fraud,  
13 waste, and abuse in those programs, and thereby ensure that public dollars are expended only  
14 on assistance and services for people who are eligible for benefits provided through those  
15 programs; and

16           WHEREAS, achieving the highest degree of program integrity is essential in the  
17 public assistance programs of this state, especially considering the large numbers of  
18 individuals and families that these programs serve.

19           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
20 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health,  
21 the Department of Children and Family Services, and the Louisiana Department of  
22 Education to take all measures necessary to ensure that state employees who are enrolled in  
23 public assistance programs administered by each department, respectively, are eligible for  
24 benefits of those programs.

25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
26 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the secretary of the Department of Children  
27 and Family Services, and the state superintendent of education.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 5 Original

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Echols

Requests the La. Dept. of Health, the Dept. of Children and Family Services, and the La. Dept. of Education to take all measures necessary to ensure that state employees who are enrolled in public assistance programs are eligible for benefits of those programs.