

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31

BY REPRESENTATIVE MOORE

SNAP/FOOD STAMPS: Requests a study effort and annual reports concerning types of foods and beverages purchased with SNAP benefits

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services and the office of  
3 public health of the Louisiana Department of Health, jointly, to coordinate a study  
4 of the types of foods and beverages purchased by beneficiaries of Louisiana's  
5 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and to report findings of the study  
6 annually to the legislative committees on health and welfare.

7 WHEREAS, the program formerly known as "food stamps" was renamed the  
8 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in 2008; and

9 WHEREAS, SNAP, which is administered in this state by the Department of  
10 Children and Family Services (DCFS), is the largest of all federal food assistance programs  
11 and provides support to needy households and to those making the transition from welfare  
12 to work; and

13 WHEREAS, SNAP benefits are financed entirely with federal funding; and

14 WHEREAS, per federal policy, SNAP benefits may be used only for the purchase  
15 of nonalcoholic beverages and, with very limited exceptions, none of which are in effect in  
16 Louisiana, food which is not hot at the point of sale; and

17 WHEREAS, in January of 2021, over four hundred seventy-seven thousand  
18 households comprising over nine hundred eighty-one thousand individuals received nutrition  
19 assistance through Louisiana's SNAP program; and

1           WHEREAS, SNAP is fundamentally a nutrition program, and advocates for people  
2 served by SNAP believe strongly in its potential to improve the health and well-being of  
3 program beneficiaries; and

4           WHEREAS, DCFS partners with the agricultural centers of Louisiana State  
5 University and Southern University to deliver educational services within SNAP through a  
6 program known as "SNAP Education" which is designed to teach food budgeting, proper  
7 nutrition, and healthy food choices to SNAP recipients; and

8           WHEREAS, R.S. 46:301 requires DCFS to submit to the legislature an annual report  
9 that addresses various aspects of the SNAP Education program; however, this law does not  
10 require that the report include any data on the particular types of foods and beverages which  
11 Louisiana SNAP recipients purchase with SNAP benefits, and the legislature currently has  
12 no access to such data; and

13           WHEREAS, data on the types of foods and beverages that Louisiana SNAP  
14 recipients purchase with their SNAP benefits would be invaluable to policymakers who are  
15 interested in potential reforms to federal and state nutrition policy that would help the  
16 children and families of our state to be healthy, strong, and vibrant.

17           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
18 urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services and the office of public  
19 health, jointly, to coordinate a study of the types of foods and beverages purchased by  
20 beneficiaries of Louisiana's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in coordinating the study, the Department of  
22 Children and Family Services and the office of public health shall engage, consult with, and  
23 obtain information and perspective from the following stakeholders:

24           (1) The director of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center's SNAP  
25 Education program and any of his designees.

26           (2) The director of the Southern University Agricultural Center's SNAP Education  
27 program and any of his designees.

28           (3) The executive director of the Pennington Biomedical Research Center of  
29 Louisiana State University and any of his designees.

30           (4) The president of the Louisiana Retailers Association and any of his designees.

1 (5) The executive director of the Louisiana Beverage Association and any of his  
2 designees.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before February 1, 2022, and annually  
4 thereafter, the Department of Children and Family Services and the office of public health  
5 shall submit to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on  
6 Health and Welfare, and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library a report of  
7 findings from the study called for in this Resolution.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Children and Family Services  
9 and the office of public health shall include in the reports called for in this Resolution  
10 recommendations for public policy reforms which would support better health and nutrition  
11 among the SNAP enrollees of this state.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that legislative authority for the study effort called  
13 for in this Resolution shall terminate thirty days after final adjournment of the 2023 Regular  
14 Session.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
16 secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services, the secretary of the Louisiana  
17 Department of Health, the assistant secretary of the office of public health, the vice president  
18 of agriculture of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, the chancellor-dean of  
19 the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, the executive director  
20 of the Pennington Biomedical Research Center of Louisiana State University, the president  
21 of the Louisiana Retailers Association, and the executive director of the Louisiana Beverage  
22 Association.

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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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HCR 31 Original

2021 Regular Session

Moore

Requests the Dept. of Children and Family Services and the office of public health, jointly, to coordinate a study of the types of foods and beverages purchased by beneficiaries of Louisiana's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Requests that these agencies submit to the legislative committees on health and welfare two annual reports of findings from the study. Provides that legislative authority for the study shall terminate 30 days after final adjournment of the 2023 R.S.