

2024 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 40

BY SENATOR FIELDS

GOVERNOR. Urges and requests Governor Jeffrey M. Landry to make application to receive funding for the Summer EBT program.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request Governor Jeffrey M. Landry to make application to receive funding for
3 the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer program for nutrition assistance.

4 WHEREAS, in December 2022, a bipartisan Congress created a new, permanent
5 program for States and certain Indian Tribal Organizations to provide food dollars to
6 low-income families with school-age kids over the summer months; and

7 WHEREAS, this program, officially called Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer,
8 or Summer EBT, will help close the summer hunger gap, of more than thirty million children
9 across America, when kids are on summer break and not getting nutritious school meals; and

10 WHEREAS, Summer EBT is based on USDA's Summer EBT for Children
11 demonstration projects and Pandemic EBT, which have been proven to reduce child hunger
12 and improve diet quality; and

13 WHEREAS, Summer EBT benefits will come in the form of pre-loaded cards that
14 families can use to purchase groceries at forty dollars per eligible child, per month; and

15 WHEREAS, these benefits work together with other available FNS nutrition
16 assistance programs such as summer meal sites, SNAP, and WIC to help ensure kids have
17 consistent access to critical nutrition when school is out; and

18 WHEREAS, in Louisiana, for adults who work eight hours per day at a rate of the

1 2024 minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour, their take-home pay before taxes is fifty-eight dollars
2 per day or two hundred ninety dollars per week; and

3 WHEREAS, at the conclusion of 2023, the Louisiana Department of Education
4 declined to sign a Notice of Intent to administer the Summer EBT program; and

5 WHEREAS, in February 2024, Governor Jeffrey M. Landry announced the state
6 would not accept the seventy million dollars in federal funding to supply free breakfasts and
7 lunches to kids when they're out of school during the summer months; and

8 WHEREAS, more than forty states, U.S. territories, and tribal nations will participate
9 in the 2024 Summer EBT program including: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado,
10 Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Guam, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas,
11 Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana,
12 Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina,
13 North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont,
14 U.S. Virgin Islands, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin; and

15 WHEREAS, Summer EBT will work hand-in-hand with other USDA nutrition
16 programs to connect every eligible child with nutritious food in the summer; and

17 WHEREAS, Summer EBT is evidence-based policy at its best, research shows that
18 providing families with summer grocery benefits reduces child hunger and supports healthier
19 diets; and

20 WHEREAS, the program has additional benefits like more money being spent at
21 local grocery stores; and

22 WHEREAS, Governor Jeffrey M. Landry is encouraged to prioritize Louisiana's kids'
23 nutrition and help to provide the additional food security that our children need for the
24 nourishment of their bodies as well as for the overall mental and physical health of all the
25 communities of the state.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
27 urge and request Governor Jeffrey M. Landry to make application for federal funding to
28 allow for the Summer EBT program in Louisiana.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
2 Governor of Louisiana, Jeffrey M. Landry.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Frances Aucoin.

SCR 40 Original	DIGEST 2024 Regular Session	Fields
Requests the governor to make application for the Summer EBT program.		