

1 WHEREAS, Louisiana has implemented Greaux the Good, a program that allows
2 SNAP benefit recipients to receive a dollar-for-dollar match on their SNAP benefits, to
3 encourage families to buy more fruits and vegetables while supporting small and local food
4 producers; and

5 WHEREAS, in 2023, an average of nearly forty-three thousand individuals
6 participated in the SNAP program nationwide at a cost of nearly one hundred thirteen billion
7 dollars; and

8 WHEREAS, SNAP was established by federal law to be a cooperative endeavor
9 between a state and the federal government where the program is administered by the state
10 and financed by the federal government; and

11 WHEREAS, in Louisiana, SNAP is administered by the Department of Children and
12 Family Services; and

13 WHEREAS, the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 defines "food" for the purposes of
14 SNAP as any food or food product for home consumption except alcoholic beverages,
15 tobacco, or hot foods ready for immediate consumption; and

16 WHEREAS, the USDA interprets the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to allow SNAP
17 benefit recipients to purchase candy, cakes, potato chips, and other unhealthy foods; and

18 WHEREAS, due to the presence of federal law, the Department of Children and
19 Family Services must seek approval from the federal government in the form of a waiver in
20 order to alter the types of food that may be purchased with SNAP benefits.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
22 direct the Department of Children and Family Services to seek a rule waiver from the United
23 States Department of Agriculture to remove unhealthy foods from the list of approved foods
24 that may be purchased with SNAP benefits.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Children and Family Services
26 shall work with medical professionals and nutrition experts to determine which foods to
27 remove from the list of approved foods to promote the health of children and families
28 receiving SNAP benefits.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
30 governor and the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services.

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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Romero

Directs the Department of Children and Family Services to seek a rule waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to remove unhealthy foods from the list of approved foods that may be purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.