

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROMERO

SNAP/FOOD STAMPS: Memorializes the United States Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture to grant Louisiana a waiver to remove unhealthy foods from the list of approved foods that may be purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To memorialize the United States Congress and the United States Department of
3 Agriculture (USDA) to grant Louisiana a waiver to allow the Louisiana Department
4 of Children and Family Services to remove unhealthy foods from the list of approved
5 foods that may purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
6 benefits.

7 WHEREAS, the USDA allows unhealthy, high fat foods to be purchased with SNAP
8 benefits contributing to the unhealthy lifestyle of our most vulnerable population; and

9 WHEREAS, in Louisiana, approximately forty percent of adults and twenty percent
10 of students in grades nine through twelve are considered obese; and

11 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that obesity is
12 associated with at least thirteen different types of cancer which make up forty percent of all
13 cancers diagnosed; and

14 WHEREAS, children with obesity are more likely to have obesity as adults due to
15 patterns of behavior learned at a young age; and

16 WHEREAS, adults with obesity have a higher risk of developing life-threatening
17 illnesses such as heart disease, type-II diabetes, and cancer; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2019, annual obesity-related medical care costs in the United States
19 were estimated to be nearly one hundred seventy-three billion dollars; and

1 WHEREAS, forty percent of all United States households do not live within one mile
2 of healthy food retailers; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
24 memorialize the United States Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture
25 to grant Louisiana a waiver to allow the Department of Children and Family Services to
26 remove unhealthy foods from the foods allowed to be purchased with SNAP benefits.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Children and Family Services
28 shall present the rule waiver to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare prior
29 to submitting the rule waiver the United States Department of Agriculture.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Children and Family Services
2 shall work with medical professional and nutrition experts to determine which foods to
3 remove from the list of approved foods to promote the health of children and families
4 receiving SNAP benefits.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
6 governor, the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the
7 Congress of the United States, and to each member of the Louisiana congressional
8 delegation.

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)]

HCR 105 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Romero

Memorializes the United States Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture to permit the Department of Children and Family Services to remove unhealthy foods from the list of approved foods that may purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

Requires the Department of Children and Family Service to present the rule waiver to the House and Senate health and welfare committees.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Require the Department of Children and Family Service to present the rule waiver to the House and Senate health and welfare committees.