

2025 REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 276

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREIBERG

EARLY CHILDHOOD: Requests the legislative auditor to perform an audit or evaluation of services and supports provided to recipients of financial assistance through the Child Care Assistance Program

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the legislative auditor to perform an audit or evaluation of services and
3 supports provided to recipients of financial assistance through the Child Care
4 Assistance Program (CCAP) and publish a report of findings and recommendations.

5 WHEREAS, to help support families in accessing high quality child care, CCAP
6 provides financial assistance to low-income families in which parents and legal guardians
7 work or attend school; elected officials in Louisiana have long prioritized CCAP for the
8 safety, well-being, development, and early learning of children, transferring administration
9 of the program from the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to
10 the state Department of Education (DOE) in 2016; and

11 WHEREAS, under DOE and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
12 Education (BESE), standards for child safety have been strengthened and early learning
13 opportunities have improved; and

14 WHEREAS, for many recipients, CCAP is not the only form of government
15 assistance that they receive; for example, many also receive Supplemental Nutrition
16 Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits; there is a need for CCAP recipients to receive
17 supportive services to help empower them and their families to effectively transition from
18 poverty and dependence to security, self-sufficiency, and independence; such services are
19 not available through DOE; and

1 WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 100 of the 2023 Regular Session of the
2 Legislature urged and requested the legislative auditor to conduct an appropriate audit or
3 evaluation of assistance programs in this state to evaluate participation, costs, and outcomes
4 for each program and identify areas for improved coordination, including CCAP, SNAP, the
5 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training initiative, the
6 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
7 program, the unemployment insurance program, and any other block grant and assistance
8 programs the legislative auditor deemed necessary to include; and

9 WHEREAS, in February 2024, the legislative auditor published an informational
10 report titled, "Coordination of Public Assistance and Workforce Development Programs";
11 the auditor reported that, in Fiscal Year 2023, total payments to child care providers equaled
12 one hundred eighty-eight million dollars of federal and state funds; and

13 WHEREAS, it is unknown what level of services, if any, the parents and legal
14 guardians who receive CCAP are receiving relative to finding suitable employment and
15 making progress toward self-sufficiency, which would benefit them, their children, and
16 Louisiana's workforce and economy; and

17 WHEREAS, the legislative auditor's report noted the need for "more collaboration
18 among agencies and stakeholders to put together a unified vision and plan detailing how best
19 to coordinate and administer public assistance and workforce development programs"; and

20 WHEREAS, on March 22, 2024, Governor Landry established, through Executive
21 Order No. JML 24-44, the Louisiana Workforce and Social Services (LA WASS) Reform
22 Task Force; its duties included to "conduct research and collect data on state models for
23 coordinating and fully integrating workforce, social services, education, child care, and
24 healthcare programs and develop alternative approaches that Louisiana should consider to
25 achieve improved outcomes;" and

26 WHEREAS, the secretaries of DCFS and the Louisiana Workforce Commission
27 (LWC) submitted the LA WASS Reform Task Force's report on January 31, 2025, to the
28 governor, speaker of the House, and president of the Senate; the governor, his cabinet, and
29 members of the legislature have been diligently working with task force members and
30 stakeholders to develop a plan to improve the efficacy of social services through the

1 integration of such programs and improved service delivery focused on supporting
2 individuals to effectively transition them out of poverty; and

3 WHEREAS, legislation was introduced in the 2025 Regular Session as House Bill
4 Nos. 617 and 624 to implement the task force's recommendations and make significant
5 progress toward the vision of an effective "One Door" model to benefit Louisianans in need
6 and to boost the state's workforce and economy.

7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
8 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the legislative auditor to perform an
9 audit or evaluation of services and supports provided to recipients of financial assistance
10 through CCAP and publish a report of findings and recommendations no later than
11 March 12, 2027.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the audit or evaluation shall reflect the state's
13 progress relative to the potential passage of House Bill Nos. 617 and 624.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
15 legislative auditor, the governor, the state superintendent of education, the president of
16 BESE, and the secretaries of DCFS and LWC.

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)]

HR 276 Original

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