

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 241

BY REPRESENTATIVES FREIBERG, BAYHAM, BERAULT, BRYANT, EGAN,
SPELL, AND WYBLE

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana legislative auditor to review assistance programs and update the report issued on February 20, 2024, relative to the integration of such programs for the purpose of achieving improved outcomes.

WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 100 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature urged and requested the Louisiana legislative auditor to conduct an appropriate audit or evaluation of assistance programs in this state to evaluate participation, costs, and outcomes for each program and identify areas for improved coordination, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training initiative (SNAP E&T), Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF), Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), unemployment insurance program, and any other block grant and assistance programs the legislative auditor deemed necessary to include; and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2024, the legislative auditor published an informational report titled, "Coordination of Public Assistance and Workforce Development Programs"; and

WHEREAS, the report found that in 2023, Louisiana spent approximately three billion, two hundred million dollars, primarily in federal dollars, on the following programs:

- (1) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- (2) SNAP Employment & Training Initiative (SNAP E&T)
- (3) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance
- (4) Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- (5) State Unemployment Insurance (UI) Program
- (6) Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) Program
- (7) Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP); and

WHEREAS, these programs served approximately one million individuals; and

WHEREAS, the report included the following findings and recommendations:

(1) "We found that while Louisiana has a unified WIOA state plan, it needs more collaboration among agencies and stakeholders to put together a unified vision and plan detailing how best to coordinate and administer public assistance and workforce development programs. The governor and cabinet-level leadership would need to take the lead in spurring improved coordination among these programs."

(2) "In addition, we found that other states have varying levels of coordination among their agencies and programs. In Louisiana, potential strategies for improved coordination could include increased public information and data and/or document sharing. For example, several other states have websites that include a clear picture of available services and how to apply."

(3) "We also found that measuring outcomes could help Louisiana determine which programs and which contractors and providers are the most effective in meeting their goals. Such information could help state leaders make more informed decisions about resources and funding"; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2024, Governor Jeff Landry established through executive order the Louisiana Workforce and Social Services (LA WASS) Reform Task Force to "conduct research and collect data on state models for coordinating and fully integrating workforce, social services, education, child care, and health care programs and develop alternative approaches that Louisiana should consider to achieve improved outcomes"; and

WHEREAS, the LA WASS Reform Task Force published its report and recommendations on February 7, 2025, and Governor Landry, his cabinet, and members of the Louisiana Legislature have been diligently working with task force members and stakeholders to develop a plan to improve the efficacy of workforce and social services through the integration of such programs and improved service delivery focused on supporting individuals to effectively transition from poverty and dependence to independence and self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, legislation was introduced in the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature as House Bill No. 624 and House Bill No. 617 to implement the task force's recommendations and make significant progress toward the vision of an effective "One

Door" model to benefit Louisianans in need and to boost the state's workforce and economic competitiveness.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, if House Bill No. 624 and House Bill No. 617 of the 2025 Regular Session are enacted, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the legislative auditor to conduct a follow-up review of its February 20, 2024, report and publish an updated report no later than thirty days prior to the 2027 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if House Bill No. 624 and House Bill No. 617 of the 2025 Regular Session are not enacted, a follow-up review of the February 20, 2024, audit would include a review of workloads that can be integrated regardless of statutory changes and identify limitations on integration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana legislative auditor, the governor, and each member of the Louisiana Workforce And Social Services Reform Task Force.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES