

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

FRAUD: Requests that the Dept. of Children and Family Services study out-of-state expenditures of Louisiana-issued Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits in order to identify fraud

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to study out-of-state  
3 expenditures of Louisiana-issued Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
4 benefits in order to identify fraud and to report findings of the study to the House  
5 Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee on Health and Welfare.

6 WHEREAS, the program formerly known as "food stamps" was renamed the  
7 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in 2008; and

8 WHEREAS, SNAP, which is administered at the state level by the Louisiana  
9 Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), is the largest of all federal food  
10 assistance programs and provides support to needy households and to those making the  
11 transition from welfare to work; and

12 WHEREAS, in January of 2021, nine hundred eighty-one thousand seven hundred  
13 fifty-one individuals received nutrition assistance benefits through Louisiana's SNAP  
14 program; and

15 WHEREAS, according to a report that DCFS produced in March of 2021, in the  
16 twelve months preceding the production of the report, Louisiana-issued SNAP benefits had  
17 been expended in all fifty states of the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, in that twelve-month period, Louisiana-issued SNAP benefits were  
19 expended in the states bordering Louisiana in the following amounts:

1           (1) Twenty-five million six hundred nine thousand one hundred seventy-nine dollars  
2 of Louisiana-issued SNAP benefits were expended in Texas.

3           (2) Twelve million two hundred forty-one thousand one hundred sixty-four dollars  
4 of Louisiana-issued SNAP benefits were expended in Mississippi.

5           (3) Two million eight hundred thirty-two thousand two hundred ninety-four dollars  
6 of Louisiana-issued SNAP benefits were expended in Arkansas; and

7           WHEREAS, in the same twelve-month period, over two million seven hundred sixty  
8 two thousand dollars of Louisiana-issued SNAP benefits were expended in Georgia, over  
9 nine hundred seventy-nine thousand dollars of Louisiana-issued SNAP benefits were  
10 expended in California, over two hundred fifty-six thousand dollars of Louisiana-issued  
11 SNAP benefits were expended in the state of Washington, over sixty-five thousand dollars  
12 of Louisiana-issued SNAP benefits were expended in Massachusetts, and over thirty-two  
13 thousand dollars of Louisiana-issued SNAP benefits were expended in Hawaii; and

14           WHEREAS, also in that twelve-month period, the SNAP benefits of two thousand  
15 nine hundred thirty-five Louisiana SNAP enrollees were expended exclusively at out-of-state  
16 retailers for at least six consecutive months and the SNAP benefits of three hundred sixty-  
17 eight Louisiana SNAP enrollees were expended exclusively at out-of-state retailers for the  
18 entire twelve months; and

19           WHEREAS, with respect to administration of public assistance programs, the term  
20 "program integrity" refers to actions by the administering agency to detect and prevent fraud,  
21 waste, and abuse in those programs, and thereby ensure that public dollars are expended only  
22 on assistance and services for people who are eligible for benefits provided through those  
23 programs; and

24           WHEREAS, policing of out-of-state expenditures of Louisiana-issued SNAP benefits  
25 by DCFS will enhance program integrity in SNAP.

26           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
27 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Children and  
28 Family Services to study out-of-state expenditures of Louisiana-issued Supplemental  
29 Nutrition Assistance Program benefits in order to identify fraud in this major public  
30 assistance program.

1           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Children and Family Services  
2 shall report findings of the study called for in this Resolution to the House Committee on  
3 Appropriations and the House Committee on Health and Welfare on or before December 31,  
4 2021.

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

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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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HR 7 Original

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Echols

Requests the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to study out-of-state expenditures of Louisiana-issued Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits in order to identify fraud.

Requires DCFS to report findings of the study to the House Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee on Health and Welfare on or before Dec. 31, 2021.