

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to investigate out-of-state retailers at which the greatest amounts of Louisiana-issued Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits are expended and to report findings of the investigation to the House Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee on Health and Welfare.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, according to data furnished by DCFS, in calendar year 2020, Louisiana-issued SNAP benefits in excess of one hundred thousand dollars were expended at each of forty-five different out-of-state retail locations; and

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to investigate out-of-state retailers at which the greatest amounts of Louisiana-issued Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits are expended for purposes of fraud detection and prevention.

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES