

SENATE SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS**SB 259****2022 Regular Session****Hewitt****KEYWORD AND SUMMARY AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE**

STATE AGENCIES. Provides reporting requirements for certain state agencies that administer certain federal and state social service or financial assistance programs.
(gov sig)

SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO THE SENATE BILL

1. Adds definition for "procedural reason"
2. Adds items to be included in reports to be file by each agency.

DIGEST OF THE SENATE BILL AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE**DIGEST**

SB 259 Reengrossed

2022 Regular Session

Hewitt

Proposed law provides for the "Public Benefit Integrity Law". Requires the Dept. of Children and Family Services, Dept. of Education, La. Dept. of Health, and La. Workforce Commission to report to the legislature annually regarding the agency's policies and processes for identifying and eliminating fraud, waste, and abuse in certain government-funded programs and the results of the application of those policies and processes.

Proposed law defines "procedural reason" to mean a reason for an action on a program case related to an agency's non-receipt of materials or information necessary for determining benefit eligibility.

Proposed law requires certain reports to be filed including the following:

- (1) For the preceding calendar year, measures of access in the program, including:
 - (a) For each month, the number of applications received, the percentage of applications denied, and the percentage of applications denied for procedural reasons.
 - (b) Monthly call center performance metrics for call centers serving clients and applicants, including the average number of calls and the average and maximum call wait times.
 - (c) The average caseload per caseworker.
- (2) A detailed description of the program's administrative appeals process for clients, including but not limited to the number of hearings requested by clients and the number of hearings waived by clients.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 49:1401-1403)

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