HLS 24RS-1980 ORIGINAL

2024 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROMERO

SNAP/FOOD STAMPS: Memorializes the United States Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture to grant Louisiana a waiver to remove unhealthy foods from the list of approved foods that may be purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To memorialize the United States Congress and the United States Department of
3	Agriculture (USDA) to grant Louisiana a waiver to allow the Louisiana Department
4	of Children and Family Services to remove unhealthy foods from the list of approved
5	foods that may purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
6	benefits.
7	WHEREAS, the USDA allows unhealthy, high fat foods to be purchased with SNAP
8	benefits contributing to the unhealthy lifestyle of our most vulnerable population; and
9	WHEREAS, in Louisiana, approximately forty percent of adults and twenty percent
10	of students in grades nine through twelve are considered obese; and
11	WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that obesity is
12	associated with at least thirteen different types of cancer which make up forty percent of all
13	cancers diagnosed; and
14	WHEREAS, children with obesity are more likely to have obesity as adults due to
15	patterns of behavior learned at a young age; and
16	WHEREAS, adults with obesity have a higher risk of developing life-threatening
17	illnesses such as heart disease, type-II diabetes, and cancer; and
18	WHEREAS, in 2019, annual obesity-related medical care costs in the United States
19	were estimated to be nearly one hundred seventy-three billion dollars; and

1	WHEREAS, forty percent of all United States households do not live within one mile
2	of healthy food retailers; and
3	WHEREAS, Louisiana has implemented Greaux the Good, a program that allows
4	SNAP benefit recipients to receive a dollar-for-dollar match on their SNAP benefits, to
5	encourage families to buy more fruits and vegetables while supporting small and local food
6	producers; and
7	WHEREAS, in 2023, an average of nearly forty-three thousand individuals
8	participated in the SNAP program nationwide at a cost of nearly one hundred thirteen billion
9	dollars; and
10	WHEREAS, SNAP was established by federal law to be a cooperative endeavor
11	between a state and the federal government where the program is administered by the state
12	and financed by the federal government; and
13	WHEREAS, in Louisiana, SNAP is administered by the Department of Children and
14	Family Services; and
15	WHEREAS, the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 defines "food" for the purposes of
16	SNAP as any food or food product for home consumption except alcoholic beverages,
17	tobacco, or hot foods ready for immediate consumption; and
18	WHEREAS, the USDA interprets the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to allow SNAP
19	benefit recipients to purchase candy, cakes, potato chips, and other unhealthy foods; and
20	WHEREAS, due to the presence of federal law, the Department of Children and
21	Family Services must seek approval from the federal government in the form of a waiver in
22	order to alter the types of food that may be purchased with SNAP benefits.
23	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
24	memorialize the United States Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture
25	to grant Louisiana a waiver to allow the Department of Children and Family Services to
26	remove unhealthy foods from the foods allowed to be purchased with SNAP benefits.
27	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Children and Family Services
28	shall work with medical professional and nutrition experts to determine which foods to
29	remove from the list of approved foods to promote the health of children and families
30	receiving SNAP benefits.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

- 2 governor, the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the
- 3 Congress of the United States, and to each member of the Louisiana congressional

4 delegation.

## **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)]

HCR 105 Original

2024 Regular Session

Romero

Memorializes the United States Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture to permit the Department of Children and Family Services to remove unhealthy foods from the list of approved foods that may purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.