2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 115

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROMERO

SNAP/FOOD STAMPS: Directs the Department of Children and Family Services to seek a waiver from the federal government to limit access to unhealthy foods

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION		
2	To direct the Department of Children and Family Services to seek a rule waiver from the		
3	United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to remove unhealthy foods from		
4	the list of approved foods that may be purchased with Supplemental Nutrition		
5	Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.		
6	WHEREAS, the USDA allows unhealthy, high fat foods to be purchased with SNAP		
7	benefits contributing to the unhealthy lifestyle of our most vulnerable population; and		
8	WHEREAS, in Louisiana, approximately forty percent of adults and twenty percent		
9	of students in grades nine through twelve are considered obese; and		
10	WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that obesity is		
11	associated with at least thirteen different types of cancer which make up forty percent of all		
12	cancers diagnosed; and		
13	WHEREAS, children with obesity are more likely to have obesity as adults due to		
14	patterns of behavior learned at a young age; and		
15	WHEREAS, adults with obesity have a higher risk of developing life-threatening		
16	illnesses such as heart disease, type-II diabetes, and cancer; and		
17	WHEREAS, in 2019, annual obesity-related medical care costs in the United States		
18	were estimated to be nearly one hundred seventy-three billion dollars; and		
19	WHEREAS, forty percent of all United States households do not live within one mile		
20	of healthy food retailers; and		

HLS 24RS-1862

1	WHEREAS, Louisiana has implemented Greaux the Good, a program that allows
2	SNAP benefit recipients to receive a dollar-for-dollar match on their SNAP benefits, to
3	encourage families to buy more fruits and vegetables while supporting small and local food
4	producers; and
5	WHEREAS, in 2023, an average of nearly forty-three thousand individuals
6	participated in the SNAP program nationwide at a cost of nearly one hundred thirteen billion
7	dollars; and
8	WHEREAS, SNAP was established by federal law to be a cooperative endeavor
9	between a state and the federal government where the program is administered by the state
10	and financed by the federal government; and
11	WHEREAS, in Louisiana, SNAP is administered by the Department of Children and
12	Family Services; and
13	WHEREAS, the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 defines "food" for the purposes of
14	SNAP as any food or food product for home consumption except alcoholic beverages,
15	tobacco, or hot foods ready for immediate consumption; and
16	WHEREAS, the USDA interprets the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to allow SNAP
17	benefit recipients to purchase candy, cakes, potato chips, and other unhealthy foods; and
18	WHEREAS, due to the presence of federal law, the Department of Children and
19	Family Services must seek approval from the federal government in the form of a waiver in
20	order to alter the types of food that may be purchased with SNAP benefits.
21	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
22	direct the Department of Children and Family Services to seek a rule waiver from the United
23	States Department of Agriculture to remove unhealthy foods from the list of approved foods
24	that may be purchased with SNAP benefits.
25	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Children and Family Services
26	shall work with medical professionals and nutrition experts to determine which foods to
27	remove from the list of approved foods to promote the health of children and families
28	receiving SNAP benefits.

- 1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Children and Family Services
- 2 shall present the rule waiver to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare prior
- 3 to submitting the rule waiver the United States Department of Agriculture.
- 4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
- 5 governor and the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services.

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 115 Engrossed	2024 Regular Session	Romero
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Directs the Department of Children and Family Services to seek a rule waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to remove unhealthy foods from the list of approved foods that may be purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

Requires the Department of Children and Family Service to present the rule waiver to the House and Senate health and welfare committees.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Health and Welfare</u> to the <u>original</u> bill:

1. Require the Department of Children and Family Service to present the rule waiver to the House and Senate health and welfare committees.