

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 40

BY SENATORS FIELDS, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CONNICK, DUPLESSIS, HARRIS, HENRY, JACKSON-ANDREWS, LUNEAU, MILLER, MIZELL, MORRIS, PRESSLY AND STINE AND REPRESENTATIVE CHASSION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request Governor Jeffrey M. Landry to make application to receive funding for the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer program for nutrition assistance.

WHEREAS, in December 2022, a bipartisan Congress created a new, permanent program for States and certain Indian Tribal Organizations to provide food dollars to low-income families with school-age kids over the summer months; and

WHEREAS, this program, officially called Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer, or Summer EBT, will help close the summer hunger gap, of more than thirty million children across America, when kids are on summer break and not getting nutritious school meals; and

WHEREAS, Summer EBT is based on USDA's Summer EBT for Children demonstration projects and Pandemic EBT, which have been proven to reduce child hunger and improve diet quality; and

WHEREAS, Summer EBT benefits will come in the form of pre-loaded cards that families can use to purchase groceries at forty dollars per eligible child, per month; and

WHEREAS, these benefits work together with other available FNS nutrition assistance programs such as summer meal sites, SNAP, and WIC to help ensure kids have consistent access to critical nutrition when school is out; and

WHEREAS, in Louisiana, for adults who work eight hours per day at a rate of the 2024 minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour, their take-home pay before taxes is fifty-eight dollars per day or two hundred ninety dollars per week; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of 2023, the Louisiana Department of Education declined to sign a Notice of Intent to administer the Summer EBT program; and

WHEREAS, in February 2024, Governor Jeffrey M. Landry announced the state would not accept the seventy million dollars in federal funding to supply free breakfasts and lunches to kids when they're out of school during the summer months; and

WHEREAS, more than forty states, U.S. territories, and tribal nations will participate in the 2024 Summer EBT program including: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Guam, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, U.S. Virgin Islands, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Summer EBT will work hand-in-hand with other USDA nutrition programs to connect every eligible child with nutritious food in the summer; and

WHEREAS, Summer EBT is evidence-based policy at its best, research shows that providing families with summer grocery benefits reduces child hunger and supports healthier diets; and

WHEREAS, the program has additional benefits like more money being spent at local grocery stores; and

WHEREAS, Governor Jeffrey M. Landry is encouraged to prioritize Louisiana's kids' nutrition and help to provide the additional food security that our children need for the nourishment of their bodies as well as for the overall mental and physical health of all the communities of the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request Governor Jeffrey M. Landry to make application for federal funding to allow for the Summer EBT program in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Louisiana, Jeffrey M. Landry.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES