

SENATE BILL NO. 195

BY SENATORS MIGUEZ, BASS, EDMONDS, FESI, KLEINPETER, SEABAUGH,
STINE AND TALBOT

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Subpart E-5 of Part II of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes
3 of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 46:331 and 332, relative to eligibility for benefits
4 of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; to limit the authority of the state
5 to waive work requirements for certain benefit recipients; to provide for an effective
6 date; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Subpart E-5 of Part II of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised
9 Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 46:331 and 332, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 **SUBPART E-5. SNAP WORK REQUIREMENTS**

11 **§331. Findings and intent**

12 **A. The legislature hereby finds and declares the following:**

13 **(1) It is the policy of this state to encourage self-sufficiency so that**
14 **Louisianians may reduce dependence on public benefits to meet basic needs and**
15 **become economically self-reliant.**

16 **(2) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as**
17 **"food stamps" and referred to hereafter in this Subpart as "SNAP", provides**
18 **support to needy households and to persons making the transition from welfare**
19 **to work.**

1 **(3) Federal regulations provided for in 7 CFR 273.24 limit the duration**
2 **of receipt of SNAP benefits by nonworking, able-bodied adults without**
3 **dependents (ABAWD) who do not qualify for certain exemptions to a total of**
4 **three months in any three-year period. However, states may submit to the**
5 **federal government applications, commonly known as "waivers", to have this**
6 **three-month limit waived. If approved, such waivers allow able-bodied,**
7 **nonworking, nonexempt adults to receive SNAP benefits for an unlimited**
8 **duration. Louisiana has long used these waivers to exempt the majority of**
9 **able-bodied adults without dependents from the federal work requirement.**

10 **(4) Federal law allows states to exempt up to eight percent of able-bodied**
11 **adults from the work requirement without providing any reason whatsoever.**
12 **These no-good-cause exemptions also accumulate and carry over from year to**
13 **year without limit. As a policy, Louisiana has not used these "no-good-cause**
14 **exemptions". However, because Louisiana has waived the work requirement,**
15 **there has been no reason to use these additional exemptions.**

16 **B. It is the intent of this Subpart to institute a comprehensive, statewide**
17 **work requirement for able-bodied adults up to fifty-two years old without any**
18 **dependents who receive SNAP benefits in this state.**

19 **§332. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program work requirements;**
20 **restriction on waivers and exemptions**

21 **A. Unless expressly required by federal law, the Department of Children**
22 **and Family Services shall not seek, apply for, accept, or renew any waiver of**
23 **work requirements established by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance**
24 **Program under 7 U.S.C. 2015(o).**

25 **B. The Department of Children and Family Services shall not exercise**
26 **the state's option to provide any exemptions from the work requirement under**
27 **7 U.S.C. 2015(o)(6)(F).**

28 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
29 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
30 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If

1 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
2 effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____