

2025 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

BY REPRESENTATIVES DEVILLIER, ADAMS, BACALA, BAMBURG, BAYHAM, BERAULT, BILLINGS, BOYD, BRASS, BRAUD, BRYANT, BUTLER, CARPENTER, CARRIER, ROBBY CARTER, CARVER, CHASSION, CHENEVERT, COATES, COX, CREWS, DAVIS, DEWITT, DICKERSON, DOMANGUE, EDMONSTON, EGAN, EMERSON, FIRMENT, FISHER, FONTENOT, FREIBERG, GLORIOSO, HENRY, HILFERTY, HORTON, HUGHES, JACKSON, MIKE JOHNSON, JORDAN, KERNER, KNOX, LAFLEUR, JACOB LANDRY, MANDIE LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MACK, MARCELLE, MCFARLAND, MOORE, NEWELL, ORGERON, OWEN, PHELPS, ROMERO, SCHAMERHORN, SCHLEGEL, SPELL, ST. BLANC, TAYLOR, THOMAS, THOMPSON, VENTRELLA, VILLIO, WALTERS, WILEY, WILLARD, WYBLE, AND YOUNG AND SENATORS BARROW, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CONNICK, DUPLESSIS, EDMONDS, HARRIS, HENRY, JACKSON-ANDREWS, JENKINS, LUNEAU, MILLER, MIZELL, MYERS, OWEN, PRESSLY, PRICE, SELTERS, STINE, AND WOMACK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health to take immediate action utilizing any available revenue source to address the suspension of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits caused by the federal government shutdown.

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2025, the United States Department of Agriculture issued a directive to states to delay sending November benefit files to their Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card processors, creating uncertainty and jeopardizing the timely distribution of SNAP benefits; and

WHEREAS, the foremost priority of the legislature is to ensure access to healthy food for Louisiana citizens and families during the federal government shutdown; and

WHEREAS, the SNAP program, administered at the state level by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), is the largest federal food assistance program providing support to low-income households; and

WHEREAS, more than 88,000 elderly individuals, 120,000 disabled individuals, and 356,000 households with children currently receive SNAP benefits at a monthly cost of approximately \$145 million; and

WHEREAS, LDH has issued a notice to SNAP cardholders warning that SNAP benefits will not be uploaded to their EBT cards for the month of November due to the federal government shutdown; and

WHEREAS, LDH has issued a notice to SNAP retailers warning businesses to be prepared for disruptions that may affect SNAP transactions and customers who rely on these benefits due to the federal government shutdown; and

WHEREAS, access to healthy food is essential to the well-being of Louisiana's citizens and any disruption in SNAP benefits would have a serious detrimental impact on the health and safety of the state's residents; and

WHEREAS, on October 24, 2025, Governor Jeff Landry issued Executive Order Number JML 25-123 declaring a state of emergency as a result of the suspension of SNAP benefits due to the federal government shutdown; and

WHEREAS, Article VII Section 10.15 of the Constitution of Louisiana provides that in order to ensure money in the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund is available for appropriation in an emergency, the legislature may authorize an appropriation from the fund at any time for any purpose only after the consent of two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature; and

WHEREAS, Section 6 of Act 365 of the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature authorized appropriation from the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund, with the consent of two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature, for the purpose of addressing emergency conditions across the state in Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

WHEREAS, in an effort to address the immediate exigent circumstances for payment of SNAP benefits, the legislature must consider all possible funding options; and

WHEREAS, for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, the legislature appropriated \$25 billion dollars to LDH for the operation of the agency; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana finds that it is necessary to take immediate action to address the suspension of SNAP benefits caused by the federal government shutdown; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health to utilize monies appropriated in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 to the department and monies from the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund as authorized in Act 365 of the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature to address the suspension of SNAP benefits caused by the federal government shutdown.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health to take immediate action utilizing up to one hundred fifty million dollars per month as provided in this Resolution, including monies from the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund, to address the suspension of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits resulting from the federal government shutdown.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby grants authority to the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health to utilize monies available to the department to pay SNAP benefits as provided in this resolution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE