The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST

SB 52 Reengrossed | 2026 Regular Session | Cathey

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to report identifying information to the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) within 72 hours following a hearing held pursuant to present law for the purpose of identifying changes in household circumstances for benefit allotments.

Proposed law requires LDH, upon receipt of a report from DCFS, to immediately:

(1) Review whether either of the child's parents is receiving any public assistance benefits as a result of the child being included in the parent's household.

(2) Adjust any SNAP, WIC, or FITAP benefits for the parent's household to reflect the change in circumstance.

(3) If the child is enrolled in Medicaid, issue a new Medicaid managed care insurance card for the child at the child's new residence.

Proposed law requires DCFS to report to LDH if a child under the age of 18 is returned to the custody of the child's parent.

Proposed law requires LDH to conduct an assessment to determine where a child is residing and adjust the benefits allotment accordingly if LDH receives an application for benefits for a child that is included in another household that receives benefits.

Proposed law requires LDH to report any individual that failed to report a change in household circumstances and is receiving public assistance benefits for a child that is no longer living in the household to the department's fraud unit.

Implementation of the provisions of proposed law shall be subject to the appropriation of funds by the legislature for this purpose.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 46:109)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the engrossed bill

1. Require DCFS to report identifying information to LDH within 72 hours following a hearing held pursuant to present law.

2. Make technical changes.