

1 beneficiaries; and

2 WHEREAS, over the more than twenty years of the FMNP, farmers' markets have
3 expanded in Louisiana and have become more available for many Louisiana citizens,
4 providing both a source of fresh nutritious foods and a market for the farmers of these more
5 nutritious products; and

6 WHEREAS, as of 2012, more than twenty states were offering the option of spending
7 WIC vouchers at farmers' markets operating within those states; and

8 WHEREAS, direct marketing of farm products through farmers' markets continues
9 to be an important sales outlet for agricultural producers nationwide and Louisiana continues
10 to expand access to farmers' markets throughout the state; and

11 WHEREAS, expanding WIC to farmers who participate in local farmers' markets
12 takes advantage of this integral part of the urban/farm linkage; and

13 WHEREAS, while these markets have continued to grow in popularity primarily due
14 to the growing consumer interest in obtaining fresh products directly from the farm, it
15 follows logically that WIC participants would have the same interest in the availability of
16 fresh food products direct from the farm.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
18 direct the Department of Health and Hospitals to submit a Medicaid state plan amendment
19 to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children to provide
20 for participation of Louisiana farmers in the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, in
21 which farmers agree to accept vouchers from participants in the WIC program for fresh,
22 nutritious, locally-grown foods.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
24 secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

DIGEST

Heitmeier

SCR No. 20

Directs DHH to submit a Medicaid state plan amendment to the WIC program, to provide for participation of Louisiana farmers in the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, in which farmers agree to accept vouchers from participants in the WIC program for fresh, nutritious, locally-grown foods.