

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 1062

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

SNAP/FOOD STAMPS: Provides for a task force to make recommendations concerning electronic issuance of SNAP benefits

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 46:311 through 313, relative to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
3 Program; to create and provide for a task force to study and make recommendations  
4 concerning electronic benefits disbursement by the Department of Children and  
5 Family Services; to provide for termination of the task force; to provide for  
6 redesignation of laws; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 46:311 through 313 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §311. Legislative findings; purpose

10 A. The legislature hereby finds the following:

11 (1) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, referred to hereafter in  
12 this Subpart as "SNAP", is the major food assistance program of this state.

13 (2) SNAP provides support to needy households and to persons making the  
14 transition from welfare to work.

15 (3) It is the policy of this state to operate SNAP in a manner that maximizes  
16 administrative efficiency in delivery of food assistance to eligible children and  
17 families.

18 B. The legislature hereby declares that the purpose of this Subpart is to  
19 further this state's policy of fiscal soundness and efficiency in administration of  
20 public benefits programs by establishing a task force to study and make

1        recommendations concerning policies, procedures, and technical processes relative  
2        to electronic disbursement of SNAP benefits by the Department of Children and  
3        Family Services.

4        §312. Task force on SNAP electronic benefits issuance; membership; purpose

5            A. There is hereby created within the Department of Children and Family  
6        Services a task force on SNAP electronic benefits issuance, referred to hereafter as  
7        the "task force".

8            B. The task force shall be composed of the following twelve members:

9            (1) Two members appointed by the commissioner of administration, at least  
10        one of whom shall be an employee in the office of information technology.

11           (2) Two members appointed by the secretary of the Department of Children  
12        and Family Services, at least one of whom shall be an employee in the division of  
13        programs of the department.

14           (3) The executive director of the Louisiana Retailers Association or his  
15        designee.

16           (4) The president of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry or  
17        his designee.

18           (5) The vice president of public affairs of the National Grocers Association  
19        or his designee.

20           (6) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker  
21        of the House of Representatives.

22           (7) One member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate.

23           (8) One member representing the Louisiana State University Agricultural  
24        Center appointed by the vice president for agriculture.

25           (9) One member representing the Southern University Agricultural Center  
26        appointed by the chancellor of the center.

27           (10) The executive director of the Louisiana Food Bank Association or his  
28        designee.

1           C. At the first meeting, the members of the task force shall select one  
2           member to serve as chairman.

3           D. The purposes of the task force shall include the following:

4           (1) To study on an ongoing basis the policies, procedures, and technical  
5           processes by which the Department of Children and Family Services disburses  
6           SNAP benefits electronically.

7           (2) To consider the impacts on Louisiana families and businesses of  
8           prospective policy changes relative to the disbursement schedule for SNAP benefits.

9           (3) To keep abreast of changes in federal laws and regulations which relate  
10          in any manner to electronic issuance of public benefits.

11          (4) To make recommendations to the secretary of the Department of  
12          Children and Family Services, on a schedule determined by the chairman,  
13          concerning innovations in electronic benefits issuance policies and systems.

14          E. The task force shall convene on or before September 1, 2014. The  
15          secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services shall call the first  
16          meeting.

17          §313. Termination

18          The provisions of this Subpart shall terminate on September 1, 2015.

19          Section 2.(A) The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to redesignate  
20          Subpart E of Part II of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,  
21          comprised of R.S. 46:290.1, as Subpart E-1 of Part II of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the  
22          Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 46:290.1, and is further directed to  
23          retain the heading of the Subpart.

24          (B) The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to redesignate Subpart A-1  
25          of Part II of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of  
26          R.S. 46:236.1, as Subpart E-2 of Part II of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised  
27          Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 46:301, and is further directed to change the heading of  
28          the Subpart to "SNAP Nutrition Education".

1 (C) The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to designate R.S. 46:311  
 2 through 313, as enacted by this Act, as Subpart E-3 of Part II of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the  
 3 Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, and is further directed to apply to the Subpart the  
 4 heading "Task Force on SNAP Electronic Benefits Issuance".

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

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Hoffmann

HB No. 1062

**Abstract:** Provides for a task force to study and make recommendations to the Dept. of Children and Family Services concerning electronic issuance of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

Proposed law establishes a task force to study and make recommendations concerning policies, procedures, and technical processes relative to electronic disbursement of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits by the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Provides that the task force shall be composed of the following 12 members:

- (1) Two members appointed by the commissioner of administration, at least one of whom shall be an employee in the office of information technology.
- (2) Two members appointed by the secretary of DCFS, at least one of whom shall be an employee in the division of programs of the department.
- (3) The executive director of the La. Retailers Association or his designee.
- (4) The president of the La. Association of Business and Industry or his designee.
- (5) The vice president of public affairs of the National Grocers Association or his designee.
- (6) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House.
- (7) One member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate.
- (8) One member representing the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center appointed by the vice president of agriculture.
- (9) One member representing the Southern University Agricultural Center appointed by the chancellor of the center.
- (10) The executive director of the La. Food Bank Association or his designee.

Proposed law provides that the purposes of the task force include the following:

- (1) To study on an ongoing basis the policies, procedures, and technical processes by which DCFS disburses SNAP benefits electronically.

- (2) To consider the impact on Louisiana families and businesses of prospective policy changes relative to the disbursement schedule for SNAP benefits.
- (3) To keep abreast of changes in federal laws and regulations which relate in any manner to electronic issuance of public benefits.
- (4) To make recommendations to the secretary of the DCFS, on a schedule determined by the chairman, concerning innovations in electronic benefits issuance policies and systems.

Proposed law provides that the task force shall convene on or before Sept. 1, 2014, and that the secretary of DCFS shall call the first meeting. Provides that proposed law shall terminate on Sept. 1, 2015.

(Adds R.S. 46:311-313)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill.

1. Added the executive director of the Louisiana Food Bank Association or his designee as a member of the task force provided for in proposed law.
2. Added provision requiring the task force to convene on or before Sept. 1, 2014.
3. Changed termination date of task force from Sept. 1, 2017 to Sept. 1, 2015.

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the engrossed bill.

1. Adds provisions specifying that the member representing the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center is to be appointed by the vice president for agriculture.
2. Adds provisions specifying that the member representing the Southern University Agricultural Center is to be appointed by the chancellor of the center.
3. Adds provisions providing that the secretary of the DCFS calls the first meeting of the task force.

#### House Floor Amendments to the reengrossed bill.

1. Corrected citation.
2. Clarified that the members of the task force shall elect a chairman at the first meeting.