

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 1062

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

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 in this
12 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

1 ~~public benefits programs by establishing a task force to study and make~~
2 ~~recommendations concerning policies, procedures, and technical processes relative~~
3 ~~to electronic disbursement of SNAP benefits by the Department of Children and~~
4 ~~Family Services.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (10) The executive director of the Louisiana Food Bank Association or his
29 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 March 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".

29 (C) The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to designate R.S. 46:311
30 through 313, as enacted by this Act, as Subpart E-3 of Part II of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the

1 Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, and is further directed to apply to the Subpart the
2 heading "Task Force on SNAP Electronic Benefits Issuance".

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____