

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 6

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to develop data sharing agreements with the Louisiana Gaming Control Board and the Louisiana Lottery Corporation to facilitate identification of winners of substantial lottery or gambling winnings who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

WHEREAS, the program formerly known as "food stamps" was renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in 2008; and

WHEREAS, SNAP, which is administered at the state level by the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, is the largest of all federal food assistance programs and provides support to needy households and to those making the transition from welfare to work; and

WHEREAS, in January of 2021, nine hundred eighty-one thousand seven hundred fifty-one individuals received nutrition assistance benefits through Louisiana's SNAP program; and

WHEREAS, because SNAP is a means-tested assistance program, applicants must meet its income eligibility requirements in order to qualify for program benefits; and

WHEREAS, leaders at the Department of Children and Family Services and the Louisiana Gaming Control Board have previously endeavored to develop a data-sharing agreement which would facilitate the identification of gaming winners who are receiving SNAP benefits, but have not yet been successful in perfecting and executing such an agreement; and

WHEREAS, with respect to administration of public assistance programs, the term "program integrity" refers to actions by the administering agency to detect and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse in those programs, and thereby ensure that public dollars are expended only on assistance and services for people who are eligible for benefits provided through those programs; and

WHEREAS, the identification of lottery and other gaming winners who are receiving SNAP benefits would enhance SNAP program integrity functions of the Department of Children and Family Services.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to develop data sharing agreements with the Louisiana Gaming Control Board and the Louisiana Lottery Corporation which would facilitate checking of data at a minimum frequency, which shall be at least monthly, for identification of winners of substantial lottery or gambling winnings, as provided in 7 CFR 273.11(r), who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services, the president and chief executive officer of the Louisiana Lottery Corporation, and the chairman of the Louisiana Gaming Control Board.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES