

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 617

2025 Regular Session

Carver

CHILDREN/DCFS: Reorganizes the Department of Children and Family Services

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Removes administration of food stamp program and eligibility determinations from the office of children and family services effective October 1, 2025.
2. Provides that proposed law is effective October 1, 2025, in part, and October 1, 2027, in part, if House Bill No. 624 of the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature is enacted.
3. Transfers certain duties to the assistant secretary of the office of child support.
4. Transfers certain duties from the office of child welfare, Department of Children and Family Services to Louisiana Works.
5. Makes technical changes.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law provides that within the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) each organizational unit which reports to the secretary, which is not an agency and not within the division of management and finance, the division of child welfare, or the division of family support, shall be in the executive division and shall be designated as bureau, section, or unit.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law provides that DCFS shall be composed of the executive office of children and family services, and such other offices as shall be created by law.

Proposed law modifies present law by providing that DCFS shall be composed of the executive office of the secretary, office of management and finance, office of child welfare, office of child support, and other offices as shall be created by law.

Proposed law provides that there shall be an assistant secretary of child welfare and an assistant secretary of child support and that each assistant secretary shall employ staff as necessary for the efficient administration of its office and programs.

Present law provides that the office of children and family services shall administer services related to public assistance programs including food stamps, child support, and disability determinations and administer public child welfare programs including programs to prevent child abuse, establish child protective services, and facilitate adoption.

Proposed law repeals present law and provides that DCFS shall be organized into the following offices:

- (1) The executive office of the secretary which shall provide for the general oversight and supervision of DCFS.
- (2) The office of child welfare which shall provide for child protective services, human trafficking programs, foster children and adoption placement services, and prevention of child abuse and neglect.

- (3) The office of child support which shall provide for the administration of child support programs.

Proposed law makes corresponding technical corrections in relevant statutory provisions.

Present law directs DCFS to prepare and submit a state plan for participation in the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program until such authority is transferred to the state Dept. of Education in accordance with present law (R.S. 17:407.28), and in the Title IV-A federal program to assist families at risk of welfare dependency.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law directs DCFS to submit a proposal for reform of the food stamp program.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law tasks DCFS with administering and supervising all forms of public assistance.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law directs DCFS to construct and operate state-supported detention facilities.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Effective in part on Oct. 1, 2025, and Oct. 1, 2027, if HB No. 624 of the 2025 R.S. is enacted.

(Amends Ch. C. Arts. 509(B)(1), 512(B)(1), 522(A)(2), 1269.3(F), 1270(B), (E), and (F), 1271(A), 1273, 1283.2(H), 1285.2(H), and 1519, C.E. Art. 902(10), R.S. 6:333(F)(14), R.S. 9:315.16(A), 315.40(1) and (3), 399.1(A) and (F)(3) and (4), and 406(B)(2) and (C)(2), R.S. 11:441.1(F), R.S. 13:998(B) and (E)(1) and (3), 1141(B) and (E)(1) and (3), 1414(B) and (E)(1) and (3), 4291(B)(1), and 5108.2, R.S. 15:587(A)(2)(a) and (b), 587.1(I), and 587.5(A)(4), R.S. 17:192.1(A)(1)(a) and (3), R.S. 23:1605(A)(4), R.S. 36:3(7), 8(E)(2)(d), 9(C), 471(B) and (C)(1), 472(A), 475.1(B) and (C), 476, and 477, R.S. 40:34.5(E), 46.12(D) and (F), and 1061.14(B)(3)(b)(i), R.S. 43:111(A)(8) R.S. 44:38, R.S. 46:51(intro. para.), 51.3, 233.1(C)(intro. para.) and (D)(intro. para.), 236.1.1(3), 236.1.4(E), 236.1.8(D), 236.3(A)(2), 236.10(A), 236.11(C), 236.12(B)(1), 236.14(D)(1)(intro. para.), 236.15(A)(1), 236.16, 238(B), (C), (D), (E)(intro. para.) and (7), and (F), 281, 1002(A), (B)(intro. para.), and (C), and 2136.2(F), R.S. 47:299.11(1), 299.41(B), 463.112(C), and 9027(C)(10)(intro. para.) and (c), and R.S. 51:1442(4); Repeals R.S. 36:474(A)(11) and (G) and 477(B)(2) and R.S. 46:51(2) and (14) and 233.1(A) and (B))