

2025 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1

BY REPRESENTATIVE ILLG

SNAP/FOOD STAMPS: Urges the Congress of the United States to enact legislation authorizing reimbursement to states using non-federal funds to continue SNAP benefits

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Congress of the United States to enact legislation authorizing
3 reimbursement to states that use non-federal funds to continue providing
4 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits during a federal
5 government shutdown.

6 WHEREAS, SNAP is a federally funded benefit administered through the United
7 States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that provides essential food assistance to
8 low-income individuals and families in Louisiana; and

9 WHEREAS, approximately eight hundred thousand Louisiana residents rely on
10 SNAP each month, representing a lifeline for children, seniors, and persons with disabilities;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, SNAP benefits risk suspension due to a lapse in federal appropriations
13 as a result of the federal shutdown, leaving vulnerable families without necessary assistance;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, as a result of the risk to SNAP benefits, the Louisiana Department of
16 Health has developed a plan to use approximately one hundred and fifty million dollars of
17 the state's funds previously appropriated to the department to continue SNAP benefits in
18 November; and

1 WHEREAS, while Louisiana's action ensures continuity of aid, such expenditures
2 constitute the use of state funds for a federal obligation and present a significant fiscal risk
3 to the state; and

4 WHEREAS, under federal law, the USDA lacks authority to reimburse states for
5 fronting SNAP benefits during a lapse in appropriations absent express congressional
6 authorization; and

7 WHEREAS, Congress has established a clear precedent for such reimbursement,
8 most notably in Public Law 113-46 (Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014), which provides
9 that "[i]f a State (or another Federal grantee) used State funds ... to continue carrying out a
10 Federal program ... the State ... shall be reimbursed for expenses that would have been paid
11 by the Federal Government during such period had appropriations been available"; and

12 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana finds it fair
13 and necessary that the federal government again adopt such language to protect states acting
14 in good faith to maintain federally funded programs during an appropriation lapse.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
16 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge the United States Congress to enact legislation
17 authorizing reimbursement to states that use non-federal funds to continue providing SNAP
18 benefits during a federal government shutdown.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature
20 of Louisiana does hereby recognize that Louisiana's action to protect its citizens during a
21 federal funding lapse should not result in a permanent financial burden on the state and that
22 Congress should act swiftly to guarantee repayment to all participating states.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
24 presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the
25 United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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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