



1 management and finance, the office of public health, the office of behavioral health,  
2 the office for citizens with developmental disabilities, the office of aging and adult  
3 services, the office on women's health and community health, **the office of health**  
4 **and nutrition**, and such other offices as shall be created by law.

5 \* \* \*

6 **§253.1. Executive office of the secretary; certain offices**

7 **A. The provisions of this Section shall apply to the following offices**  
8 **within the Louisiana Department of Health:**

9 **(1) The executive office of the secretary.**

10 **(2) The office of health and nutrition.**

11 **B. The offices shall be under the direct supervision, direction, and**  
12 **control of the secretary.**

13 **C. The duties and functions of these offices shall be determined by the**  
14 **secretary and shall be exercised under the direct supervision and control of the**  
15 **secretary.**

16 §254. Powers and duties of the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health

17 \* \* \*

18 B. The secretary shall have authority to:

19 (1)(a) Except as otherwise specifically provided in R.S. 36:801 and 803:

20 (i) Employ, appoint, remove, assign, and promote such personnel as is  
21 necessary for the efficient administration of the executive office of the secretary **and**  
22 **the office of health and nutrition** and the performance of **it's the offices'** powers,  
23 duties, functions, and responsibilities and such other personnel, who are not assigned  
24 to an office, as may be necessary for the efficient administration of the department  
25 and for the performance of the responsibilities, powers, duties, and functions of  
26 agencies transferred to it.

27 \* \* \*

28 §257. Assistant secretaries

29 A. Each office within the Louisiana Department of Health, except **the**

1           executive office of the secretary, the office of management and finance, the office  
 2           of health and nutrition, and the office of the surgeon general, shall be under the  
 3           immediate supervision and direction of an assistant secretary, who shall be appointed  
 4           by the governor with consent of the Senate. Each shall serve at the pleasure of the  
 5           governor and shall be paid a salary which shall be fixed by the governor, which  
 6           salary shall not exceed the amount approved for such position by the legislature  
 7           while in session.

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9           §258. Offices; purposes and functions

10           A. The purposes for which the offices of the Louisiana Department of Health,  
 11           other than the executive office of the secretary and the office of management  
 12           and finance, are created shall be set forth in this Section.

13           B. The office of public health shall perform the functions of the state which  
 14           relate to the general health of the people of the state, including but not limited to  
 15           responsibility for the preparation and supervision of the Sanitary Code, local health  
 16           units, sewage treatment and disposal within the state, ~~physical fitness, supplemental~~  
 17           ~~food programs for women, infants, and children~~, emergency medical services, and  
 18           related functions affecting the public health. It shall also perform those functions of  
 19           the state provided by law relating to environmental quality and pollution control  
 20           which are related to the public health and which are specifically assigned to the  
 21           department, including but not limited to functions relating to the treatment and  
 22           disposal of sewage within the state, with the exception of those functions assigned  
 23           by law to the Department of Environmental Quality including, but not limited to, the  
 24           licensing of sewage sludge transporters or haulers.

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26           N. The office of health and nutrition shall be responsible for leading and  
 27           coordinating efforts within the Louisiana Department of Health that are  
 28           intended to promote supplemental nutrition assistance services and commodity  
 29           programs for women, infants, children, physical fitness, and health outcomes.

\* \* \*

§258.1. Office of health and nutrition

A. The department shall have an executive director for the office of health and nutrition that reports directly to the secretary.

B. The office of health and nutrition shall be responsible for:

(1) Leading and coordinating the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP).

(2) Developing policy for the implementation of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program within the department.

(3) Leading and coordinating department initiatives that include addressing health and nutrition, health care access, and preventative health care services.

Section 2. R.S. 46:450.3(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§450.3. WIC participants; homeless

A. The office of ~~public health~~ health and nutrition within the Louisiana Department of Health shall adopt rules and regulations for the WIC program in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to provide nonperishable food items to women and children. Such rules shall provide for the distribution of WIC vouchers, in small quantities on a frequent basis, for food items that do not require refrigeration or storage to eligible WIC participants that have been identified by qualified organizations as being homeless. Such rules shall comply with requirements of federal laws and regulations in order to ensure receipt of federal funding for the program.

\* \* \*

Section 3. The Louisiana Department of Health is authorized to transfer funding and positions within the department to establish and implement the office of health and nutrition.

Section 4. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not

1 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
 2 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 3 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 4 effective on the day following such approval.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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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DIGEST

SB 219 Original 2026 Regular Session McMath

Present law provides for the following composition of the La. Dept. of Health: the executive office of the secretary, the office of the surgeon general, the office of management and finance, the office of public health, the office of behavioral health, the office for citizens with developmental disabilities, the office of aging and adult services, and the office on women's health and community health.

Proposed law adds the office of health and nutrition within the La. Dept. of Health.

Proposed law provides that the office is responsible for leading and coordinating the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and for policy implementation of the SNAP within the department.

Proposed law provides for an executive director for the office that reports directly to the secretary.

Proposed law provides that the executive office of the secretary and the office of health and nutrition shall be under the direct supervision, direction, and control of the secretary of the La. Dept. of Health.

Proposed law authorizes the La. Dept. of Health to transfer funding and positions within the department to establish and implement the office of health and nutrition.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 36:251(C)(1), 254(B)(1)(a)(i), 257(A), and 258(A) and (B) and R.S. 46:450.3(A); adds R.S. 36:253.1, 258(N), and 258.1)