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)]

DIGEST

SB 415 Engrossed | 2026 Regular Session | Abraham

Present law places the administration of SNAP under the La. Dept. of Health.

Proposed law retains present law and creates a separate SNAP-like program administered by the La. Dept. of Health.

Proposed law requires the La. Dept. of Health to establish and administer the Empower Louisiana Food Purchase Program to make restricted-use food purchase cards available for issuance through qualified nonprofit organizations.

Proposed law provides for requirements for nonprofit organizations to qualify to participate in the program.

Proposed law requires each nonprofit organization to provide funding for cards issued by the organization and to accept charitable contributions to support the program.

Proposed law requires each nonprofit organization to establish a process to allow individuals to provide funding for cards that may either be issued directly to the individual or to another person identified by the individual that provided funding for the card.

Proposed law provides that benefits received through the program are considered charitable food assistance and shall not be construed as wages, compensation, or remuneration.

Proposed law provides for administrative requirements for the program, including the limitation of purchases to food items that are eligible for purchase in SNAP.

Proposed law requires the La. Dept. of Health to submit a report evaluating the program to the Senate and House committees on health and welfare no later than March 1, 2027.

Proposed law requires the La. Dept. of Health to promulgate rules to implement proposed law.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 46:290)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill

1. Provides that benefits received pursuant to the program are charitable food assistance and not considered wages, compensation, or remuneration.

2. Provides for additional programmatic requirements.

3. Moves the report date from March 1, 2028 to March 1, 2027.