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 DIGEST

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SB 415 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Abraham

Present law places the administration of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) under the La. Dept. of Health (LDH).

Proposed law retains present law and creates a separate SNAP-like program administered by LDH.

Proposed law requires LDH 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 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 who 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 LDH 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 LDH to promulgate rules to implement proposed law.

Proposed law requires LDH to utilize existing resources and staff to fulfill the requirements of proposed law.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 46:291)

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.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Requires the La. Dept. of Health to utilize existing resources and staff for the program.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the reengrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.