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 DIGEST

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SB 52 Re-Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Cathey

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to report identifying information to the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) within three business days following a hearing held pursuant to present law for the purpose of identifying changes in household circumstances for benefit allotments.

Proposed law requires LDH, upon receipt of a report from DCFS, to immediately complete all of the following:

- (1) Review whether either of the child's parents is receiving any public assistance benefits as a result of the child being included in the parent's household.
- (2) Adjust any SNAP, WIC, or FITAP benefits for the parent's household to reflect the change in circumstance.
- (3) If the child is enrolled in Medicaid, issue a new Medicaid managed care insurance card for the child at the child's new residence.

Proposed law requires DCFS to report to LDH if a child under the age of 18 is returned to the custody of the child's parent.

Proposed law requires LDH to conduct an assessment to determine where a child is residing and adjust the benefits allotment accordingly, if LDH receives an application for benefits for a child that is included in another household that receives benefits.

Proposed law requires LDH to report any individual that failed to report a required change in household circumstances and is receiving public assistance benefits for a child that is no longer living in the household to LDH's fraud unit.

Present law provides for a state child ombudsman appointed by the legislative auditor to monitor and evaluate public and private agencies involved in the protection and delivery of services to children and provides for the duties and responsibilities of the state child ombudsman.

Proposed law retains present law and further requires the state child ombudsman to conduct an annual review of the implementation of proposed law by DCFS and LDH, including the timely compliance with reporting requirements and a review of department procedures.

Proposed law requires DCFS and LDH to provide access to any records identifying changes in household circumstances or related to the adjustment of public assistance benefits at the written request of the state child ombudsman.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 24:525(C)(14) and R.S. 46:109)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the engrossed bill

1. Requires DCFS to report identifying information to LDH within 72 hours following a hearing held pursuant to present law.

2. Makes technical changes.

Senate Floor Amendments to reengrossed bill

1. Requires the state child ombudsman to conduct an annual review of the implementation of proposed law by DCFS and LDH.
2. Requires DCFS and LDH to provide access to certain records at the request of the state child ombudsman.
3. Makes technical changes.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Require the request of the state ombudsman to be in writing.
2. Change the amount of time DCFS has to report a change in household from 72 hours to three business days.
3. Make technical corrections.