

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 733 (SB 52)

2026 Regular Session

Cathey

New 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 existing law for the purpose of identifying changes in household circumstances for benefit allotments.

New 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.

New 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.

New 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.

New 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.

Existing 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.

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

New 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)