

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 508 (SB 415)

2026 Regular Session

Abraham

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

New law retains existing law and creates a separate SNAP-like program administered by LDH.

New 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.

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

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

New 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.

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

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

New 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.

New law requires LDH to promulgate rules to implement new law.

New law requires LDH to utilize existing resources and staff to fulfill the requirements of new law.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 46:291)