

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 368 (SB 219)

2026 Regular Session

McMath

Existing law provides for the following composition of the La. Dept. of Health: the executive office of the secretary, the office of the surgeon general, the office of management and finance, the office of public health, the office of behavioral health, the office for citizens with developmental disabilities, the office of aging and adult services, and the office on women's health and community health.

New law creates the office of health and nutrition within the La. Dept. of Health and moves functions relating to physical fitness, supplemental food programs for women, infants, and children from the office of public health to the office of health and nutrition.

New law provides that the office of health and nutrition is responsible for leading and coordinating efforts intended to promote health and nutrition, healthcare access, preventative healthcare services, chronic disease prevention and management programs, physical fitness, and health outcomes, including supplemental nutrition assistance services and commodity programs for women, infants, and children.

New law further requires the office of health and nutrition to coordinate with the office of aging and adult services and the office of public health to provide public education on risk reduction strategies for Alzheimer's and related dementias, included the diseases' links to other chronic diseases.

New law provides for an executive director for the office of health and nutrition that reports directly to the secretary.

New law provides that the executive office of the secretary and the office of health and nutrition shall be under the direct supervision, direction, and control of the secretary of the La. Dept. of Health.

New law authorizes the La. Dept. of Health to transfer funding and positions within the department to establish and implement the office of health and nutrition.

Effective October 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 36:251(C)(1), 254(B)(1)(a)(i), 257(A), and 258(A) and (B) and R.S. 46:450.3(A); adds R.S. 36:253.1, 258(N), and 258.1)