HLS 21RS-551 ORIGINAL

2021 Regular Session

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

FRAUD: Requests an investigation of out-of-state retailers at which the greatest amounts of Louisiana-issued SNAP benefits are expended for purposes of fraud detection and prevention

A RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to investigate
3	out-of-state retailers at which the greatest amounts of Louisiana-issued Supplemental
4	Nutrition Assistance Program benefits are expended and to report findings of the
5	investigation to the House Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee
6	on Health and Welfare.
7	WHEREAS, the program formerly known as "food stamps" was renamed the
8	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in 2008; and
9	WHEREAS, SNAP, which is administered at the state level by the Louisiana
10	Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), is the largest of all federal food
11	assistance programs and provides support to needy households and to those making the
12	transition from welfare to work; and
13	WHEREAS, in January of 2021, nine hundred eighty-one thousand seven hundred
14	fifty-one individuals received nutrition assistance benefits through Louisiana's SNAP
15	program; and
16	WHEREAS, according to data furnished by DCFS, in calendar year 2020, Louisiana-
17	issued SNAP benefits in excess of one hundred thousand dollars were expended at each of
18	forty-five different out-of-state retail locations; and
19	WHEREAS, with respect to administration of public assistance programs, the term
20	"program integrity" refers to actions by the administering agency to detect and prevent fraud.

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1 waste, and abuse in those programs, and thereby ensure that public dollars are expended only

2 on assistance and services for people who are eligible for benefits provided through those

3 programs; and

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- WHEREAS, policing by DCFS of out-of-state expenditures of Louisiana-issued
- 5 SNAP benefits will enhance program integrity in SNAP.
- THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
- 7 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Children and
- 8 Family Services to investigate out-of-state retailers at which the greatest amounts of
- 9 Louisiana-issued Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits are expended for
- 10 purposes of fraud detection and prevention.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Children and Family Services
- shall report findings of the investigation called for in this Resolution to the House
- 13 Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee on Health and Welfare on or before
- 14 December 31, 2021.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
- secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 8 Original

2021 Regular Session

Echols

Requests the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to investigate out-of-state retailers at which the greatest amounts of Louisiana-issued Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits are expended for purposes of fraud detection and prevention.

Requires DCFS to report findings of the investigation to the House Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee on Health and Welfare on or before Dec. 31, 2021.