

## HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

# HB 624

## 2025 Regular Session

# Berault

**WORKFORCE COMMISSION:** Transfers certain family and support programs from the Department of Children and Family Services to the Louisiana Workforce Commission and renames Louisiana Workforce Commission to Louisiana Works

## Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Removes provisions of proposed law that added power and duties for the specific purpose of administering public assistance to the current power and duties of the secretary of the La. Workforce Commission.
2. Removes public assistance provisions that were transferred from Title 46 to Title 23 for the purpose of restoring those provisions to present law.
3. Removes Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) provisions that were transferred from Title 46 to Title 23 for the purpose of restoring those provisions to present law.
4. Amends relevant provisions in Title 46 for the purpose of changing references from the Dept. of Children and Family Services to the La. Dept. of Health or La. Works, where appropriate.
5. Amends the effectiveness provisions of proposed law.
6. Makes necessary technical and title corrections.

## Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law and proposed law transfers certain family and support programs, such as TANF, from the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to the La. Workforce Commission (LWC); transfers SNAP and related programs from DCFS to the La. Dept. of Health (LDH); renames LWC to Louisiana Works.

## Title 23 Provisions

Present law provides that LWC is created and established to operate an integrated workforce development delivery system in this state, in particular through the integration of job training, employment and employment-related education and training programs, vocational rehabilitation services, independent living services, and blind services programs, and to administer the state's unemployment and workers' compensation programs.

Proposed law extends the areas operated by LWC to include case management and certain family support programs. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Present law defines "commission", "council", and "secretary".

Proposed law removes the definition for "commission" and adds definitions for "customer", "department", "SNAP", and "TANF". Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law provides that the legislature recognizes that LWC provides services to support individuals with various needs and in various stages of life.

Proposed law provides that, despite this, the conventional service delivery system of

requiring individuals to access various offices within the state creates a barrier for the delivery of those services and entry into the workforce. Proposed law further provides that these barriers can be resolved and individuals' needs can be met by utilizing an integrated case management at a single service location with a single case worker.

Proposed law changes "LWC" to "La. Works", "commission" to "department", and "executive director" to "secretary" when applicable, in addition to requesting the Louisiana Law Institute to change all references of the aforementioned within the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

Present law provides for the integration of services, such as job-training, employment, vocational rehabilitation services, independent living and blind services programs, and employment-related educational programs and functions to be integrated into the workforce development delivery system.

Present law requires each agency with workforce development data to assign each individual receiving its services a unique identifier to link disparate databases.

Proposed law provides that the individual's Social Security number may serve as the unique identifier and limits to use of and access to the individual's Social Security number.

Present law requires the secretary of LWC to transfer monies, which, if any, are appropriated by the legislature to conduct a workforce facility condition assessment, service market data study or location analysis, and master plan, to the La. Community and Technical College System for the purpose of conducting the aforementioned assessment, analysis, or master plan.

Proposed law revises present law to instead provide that the secretary may contract with any state agency, higher education provider, or any private provider, subject to state procurement rules and regulations, to conduct a workforce economic assessment, if funds are appropriated for that purpose.

Present law requires LWC to provide appropriated local workforce development areas funds for the purpose of workforce training and employment services. Present law further provides that administrative costs may not exceed 10% of the total amount of funds available to LWC for federal grants for the purpose of carrying out local workforce development activities, unless authorized by any other law, regulation, or waiver.

Proposed law repeals present law and instead requires the department, in consultation with the Workforce Investment Council or local workforce development boards, to develop a comprehensive statewide workforce and social services plan that aligns with federal law.

Proposed law requires the plan to include but not be limited to the following:

- (1) A projected analysis of the workforce needs of employers and customers.
- (2) Policy standards in programs and processes to ensure statewide program consistency among regional service areas.
- (3) State outcome-based standards for measuring program performance to evaluate quality standards of performance, program efficacy, program viability, and prompt service to all customers.
- (4) State oversight systems to review local workforce development board compliance with state policies.
- (5) Elements or regional workforce services plans that relate to statewide initiatives and programs.
- (6) Strategies to ensure program responsiveness, universal access, and unified case

management.

- (7) Strategies to provide assistance to employees and employers facing employment discrimination.

Present law prohibits federal grant funding from applying to programs for which governing laws or regulations do not permit the use of such funding, or to programs for which the use of funding is not feasible, as determined by the secretary.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law provides that in the case of funds that are allocated to this state or regions of this state through the application of established formulas, the commission shall allocate amounts across the state using the same formula that was used to provide the funds to the state or that region unless an alternate formula is authorized by federal law or any other law.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law provides that in each area of the state not designated as a local workforce development area or that is designated but the local workforce development board is not certified and a regional and local plan approved by the governor, the secretary shall do each of the following:

- (1) Provide workforce training and services in that area to the extent allowed by federal law.
- (2) Specify an entity, which may be the commission, for the performance of employment services in that area.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law provides that, unless required by federal law or superseded by other state or federal law, at least 85% of the funds be allocated to LWC for adult and youth workforce training and services and at least 60% of funds be allocated to the local workforce development board, or appropriate development board, in that area for dislocated worker training and services.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law provides that, if a local workforce development board has been certified and a local plan approved by the governor, the funds shall be provided through the formula allocation process provided for in present law. Present law further provides that, unless superseded by federal law, regulation, or waiver, the total administrative costs for local workforce training and services may not exceed 10% of the funds allocated under present law, regardless of whether the training and services are provided through a local workforce development board or through LWC or other entity specified pursuant to present law.

Proposed law repeals present law.

### **SNAP benefits and related programs**

Present law provides for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the SNAP workforce training and education program, and provides work requirements for participation in the SNAP program.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides for workforce training and an education pilot initiative for the purpose of improving employment opportunities for nonworking SNAP recipients and enhancing workforce readiness.

Proposed law retains present law except to change the program from a pilot initiative to a permanent program.

Present law provides for SNAP and related programs to be administered by DCFS. Proposed law instead provides for SNAP and related programs to be administered by LDH.

Present law refers to persons who participate in SNAP and related programs as "participants". Proposed law instead refers to such persons as "customers".

### **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families**

Present law provides for TANF and related programs to be administered by DCFS. Proposed law instead provides for TANF and related programs to be administered by La. Works.

### **Title 36 Provisions**

Present law provides that the office of occupational information services shall perform the functions of the state relative to data processing and the development, analysis, and dissemination of labor market and occupational information, including but not limited to training and forecasting data.

Proposed law repeals the office of occupational information services and instead provides that the office of workforce development, in addition to functions already distributed to it by present law, shall perform the aforementioned functions.

Proposed law provides that the powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities relating to certain programs within the office of family support of DCFS, or a successor office or department, related to TANF, including employment and training programs, are transferred to La. Works

### **Title 46 Provisions**

Present law provides that applications for assistance and information contained in case records of clients of the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), DCFS, or the office of elderly affairs, for the purpose of adult protective services, shall be confidential.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law prohibits, except as otherwise provided, any person from soliciting, disclosing, receiving, making use of, or authorizing, knowingly permitting, participating in, or acquiescing in the use of applications or client case records, or any information contained in either, for any purpose not directly connected with the administration of the programs of the department.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that for purposes of present law (R.S. 46:56), department means LDH, DCFS, and the adult protection agency provided for in present law (R.S. 15:1503).

Proposed law extends the definition to include La. Works. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides that it is the express intent that LDH, DCFS, and, for the purpose of adult protective services, the office of elderly affairs share access to each other's case records to the extent that such access is not prohibited by federal law or regulation.

Proposed law adds La. Works to the aforementioned provision and otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides that DCFS and the office of the secretary of LDH, through their

respective appeal sections, shall provide for a system of hearings and are responsible for fulfillment of all hearing provisions as prescribed under federal laws and regulations.

Proposed law adds La. Works to the aforementioned provision and otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law changes "LWC" to "La. Works" and "commission" to "department" when applicable, in addition to requesting the Louisiana Law Institute to change all references of the aforementioned within the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

Proposed law makes necessary technical corrections.

Proposed law provides that the administrative rules contained in the La. Administrative Code promulgated by DCFS, which govern or are applicable to the programs and operations transferred from DCFS to La. Works or LDH, shall continue to be effective and the office of state register shall change all applicable references to DCFS to La. Works or LDH, as appropriate.

Proposed law provides that all DCFS contracts for the programs and activities transferred to La. Works or LDH shall be deemed to have been transferred and assigned to the La. Works or LDH, as appropriate, upon the effective date of proposed law without the necessity of contractual amendment, and La. Works or LDH shall be solely responsible for all related obligations and liabilities arising on or after that date.

Proposed law provides that all DCFS, or a successor department, contracts related to the operation and administration of the programs transferred to La. Works or LDH shall be deemed to have been transferred and assigned to La. Works or LDH, as appropriate, upon the effective date of proposed law without the necessity of contractual amendment, and La. Works or LDH shall be responsible for all related obligations and liabilities arising on or after that effective date.

Proposed law provides that all employees engaged in the performance of duties relating to the functions of the programs and services transferred from DCFS to La. Works or LDH are transferred to La. Works or LDH, as appropriate, to carry out the functions of La. Works or LDH and its programs and services and shall continue to perform their duties, subject to applicable state laws, rules, and regulations.

Proposed law provides that in order to ensure continuity of services, La. Works shall provide adequate funding from the TANF program to DCFS, or a successor department, to run the child protection and child welfare services. Proposed law further provides that the amount and schedule of funding transfers shall be agreed upon by the departments.

### **Disability Determination Services**

Proposed law provides for the disability determination services program administered by DCFS to be transferred to LDH.

### **Effectiveness**

Proposed law provides for the transfer of workforce development programs within DCFS to La. Works beginning Oct. 1, 2027.

Proposed law provides for the transfer of SNAP programs and disability determination service program within DCFS to LDH beginning Oct. 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 11:780(C)(3)(a)(I), R.S. 14:68.2.1(A) and 74(D)(2), R.S. 15:933.1, R.S. 17:14.1(B)(1) and (C)(5), 3047.6(A), and 3914(M)(1), the heading of Chapter 1 of Title 23 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, R.S. 23:1, 2, 3, 6(intro. para.), (1), (2), (3), (7), and (15), 7, 12, 14, 17, 73(A)(1)(intro. para.), (a)-(c), and (d)(intro. para.) and (ii), (C), and (E)(2), 74, 75(A), (B), (C)(1), (D)(3)(a) and (b), and (E), 76(A), (B), and (C)(1), (2), and

(8)(a), 78(intro. para.), (1), and (5), 1600(2) and (3)(a), 1693(I)(1)(intro. para.), (a), and (b)(intro. para.), (i), and (ii), (2), and (3) and (J), R.S. 36:3(3), 4(A)(intro. para.) and (6), the heading of Chapter 7 of Title 36 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, 301, 308(A) and (B), and 309(A)(intro. para.), (B)(intro. para.), (C)(intro. para.), (D), and (E)(intro. para.), R.S. 46:1(2), (4), and (6), 18(A), 52.1(A) and (B)(1)(intro. para.), (2), and (3), 54, 56(A) and (B)(1), 59, 60, 107(A)(1), 114(A), (B), (C)(1)(intro. para.) and (2), (D), and (E)(1)(intro. para.) and (3), 114.1, 114.2, 114.3(A) and (B), 114.4(D) and (E), 116, 230.1(A) and (B), 231(11) and (24), 231.4(A) and (D), 234, 236, 237(A),(E),(F), and (G), 301(A)(1) and (2), 321(2)-(5), 322(2)-(6), 323(intro. para.), (3), and (4), 324(A), (B), (C), (D), and (E)(intro. para.), (1), and (2)(intro. para.), 325(intro. para.), 326-328, 331(A)(1)-(3), 332, 352(1)(a) and (b) and (2)(a), 431, 433(A), 434, 441, 443, 444, 447, 450.1(A), (B)(4) and (5), and (C)(1) and (2), 460.1, 460.4(A), 460.5(A), 460.7(A) and (C), 460.8(A)(1) and (B), 460.10, 932(12), and 936, and R.S. 49:191(1)(f) and 1402(1)(d); Adds R.S. 36:309(F) and R.S. 46:107(E); Repeals R.S. 23:18 and 34, R.S. 36:308(E), R.S. 46:52.1(C)-(F), 55, 102, 103, 112, 230.1(C), and 231.14(G)(3), and R.S. 49:1402(1)(a))