

2025 REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 276

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREIBERG

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the legislative auditor to perform an audit or evaluation of services and supports provided to recipients of financial assistance through the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and publish a report of findings and recommendations.

WHEREAS, to help support families in accessing high quality child care, CCAP provides financial assistance to low-income families in which parents and legal guardians work or attend school; elected officials in Louisiana have long prioritized CCAP for the safety, well-being, development, and early learning of children, transferring administration of the program from the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to the state Department of Education (DOE) in 2016; and

WHEREAS, under DOE and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), standards for child safety have been strengthened and early learning opportunities have improved; and

WHEREAS, for many recipients, CCAP is not the only form of government assistance that they receive; for example, many also receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits; there is a need for CCAP recipients to receive supportive services to help empower them and their families to effectively transition from poverty and dependence to security, self-sufficiency, and independence; such services are not available through DOE; and

WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 100 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature urged and requested the legislative auditor to conduct an appropriate audit or evaluation of assistance programs in this state to evaluate participation, costs, and outcomes for each program and identify areas for improved coordination, including CCAP, SNAP, the

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training initiative, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the unemployment insurance program, and any other block grant and assistance programs the legislative auditor deemed necessary to include; and

WHEREAS, in February 2024, the legislative auditor published an informational report titled, "Coordination of Public Assistance and Workforce Development Programs"; the auditor reported that, in Fiscal Year 2023, total payments to child care providers equaled one hundred eighty-eight million dollars of federal and state funds; and

WHEREAS, it is unknown what level of services, if any, the parents and legal guardians who receive CCAP are receiving relative to finding suitable employment and making progress toward self-sufficiency, which would benefit them, their children, and Louisiana's workforce and economy; and

WHEREAS, the legislative auditor's report noted the need for "more collaboration among agencies and stakeholders to put together a unified vision and plan detailing how best to coordinate and administer public assistance and workforce development programs"; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2024, Governor Landry established, through Executive Order No. JML 24-44, the Louisiana Workforce and Social Services (LA WASS) Reform Task Force; its duties included to "conduct research and collect data on state models for coordinating and fully integrating workforce, social services, education, child care, and healthcare programs and develop alternative approaches that Louisiana should consider to achieve improved outcomes;" and

WHEREAS, the secretaries of DCFS and the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) submitted the LA WASS Reform Task Force's report on January 31, 2025, to the governor, speaker of the House, and president of the Senate; the governor, his cabinet, and members of the legislature have been diligently working with task force members and stakeholders to develop a plan to improve the efficacy of social services through the integration of such programs and improved service delivery focused on supporting individuals to effectively transition them out of poverty; and

WHEREAS, legislation was introduced in the 2025 Regular Session as House Bill Nos. 617 and 624 to implement the task force's recommendations and make significant

progress toward the vision of an effective "One Door" model to benefit Louisianans in need and to boost the state's workforce and economy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the legislative auditor to perform an audit or evaluation of services and supports provided to recipients of financial assistance through CCAP and publish a report of findings and recommendations no later than March 12, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the audit or evaluation shall reflect the state's progress relative to the potential passage of House Bill Nos. 617 and 624.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the legislative auditor, the governor, the state superintendent of education, the president of BESE, and the secretaries of DCFS and LWC.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES