

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 624

BY REPRESENTATIVES BERAULT, AMEDEE, BACALA, BAMBURG, BILLINGS, BOYER, BRYANT, BUTLER, CARLSON, CARRIER, CARVER, CHENEVERT, COATES, COX, DEWITT, DICKERSON, DOMANGUE, ECHOLS, EDMONSTON, EGAN, FIRMENT, FISHER, FREIBERG, GLORIOSO, HEBERT, HENRY, HORTON, ILLG, JACKSON, MIKE JOHNSON, KERNER, MANDIE LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LARVADAIN, MACK, MCMAKIN, MELERINE, OWEN, ROMERO, SCHAMERHORN, SCHLEGEL, SPELL, ST. BLANC, STAGNI, TAYLOR, THOMPSON, VENTRELLA, VILLIO, WALTERS, WILDER, WRIGHT, AND WYBLE AND SENATORS BASS, CARTER, CATHEY, EDMONDS, JENKINS, MCMATH, MIZELL, MYERS, OWEN, PRESSLY, WHEAT, AND WOMACK

AN ACT

To amend and reenact 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(introductory paragraph), (1), (2), (3), (7), and (15), 7, 12, 14, 17, 73(A)(1)(introductory paragraph), (a) through (c), and (d)(introductory paragraph) 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(introductory paragraph), (1), and (5), 1600(2) and (3)(a), 1693(I)(1)(introductory paragraph), (a), and (b)(introductory paragraph), (i), and (ii), (2), and (3) and (J), R.S. 36:3(3), 4(A)(introductory paragraph) 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)(introductory paragraph), (B)(introductory paragraph), (C)(introductory paragraph), (D), and (E)(introductory paragraph), R.S. 46:1(2), (4), and (6), 18(A), 52.1(A) and (B)(1)(introductory paragraph), (2), and (3), 54, 56(A) and (B)(1), 59, 60, 107(A)(1), 114(A), (B), (C)(1)(introductory paragraph) and (2), (D), and (E)(1)(introductory paragraph) 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) through (5), 322(2) through

(6), 323(introductory paragraph), (3), and (4), 324(A), (B), (C), (D), and (E)(introductory paragraph), (1), and (2)(introductory paragraph), 325(introductory paragraph), 326 through 328, 331(A)(1) through (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), to enact R.S. 36:309(F) and R.S. 46:107(E), and to repeal R.S. 23:18 and 34, R.S. 36:308(E), R.S. 46:52.1(C) through (F), 55, 102, 103, 112, 230.1(C), and 231.14(G)(3), and R.S. 49:1402(1)(a), relative to the reorganization and restructure of the Louisiana Workforce Commission and the Department of Children and Family Services; to provide for certain family and support programs in the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) being transferred to the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) and the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH); to replace the Department of Children and Family Services with Louisiana Works or LDH in certain provisions in Titles 11, 14, 15, 23, and 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 that reference DCFS programs that will be transferred to Louisiana Works or LDH; to change the name of the Louisiana Workforce Commission to Louisiana Works; to establish the purpose of Louisiana Works; to establish additional duties and powers of Louisiana Works; to provide for the powers and duties of the secretary of Louisiana Works; to provide definitions; to provide for integrated case management and service integration of social service and workforce programs; development programs; to provide for grants to local workforce development areas; to provide for SNAP Nutrition Education; to provide for the SNAP Workforce Training and Education Program; to provide for duties of LDH in regards to administering SNAP; to provide for SNAP work requirements; to provide for aid to needy families, such as the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and subsidiary programs within TANF, such as the Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP), the Kinship Care Subsidy Program, and other educational, employment, training, and related services programs; to provide for the submission of certain federal quarterly reports to the legislature; to provide for the Incentive Award

Program; to provide for the administration of public assistance benefits payable to mentally incapable individuals; to add certain functions to the office of workforce development; to transfer certain powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities relating to certain programs within the office of family support of DCFS into Louisiana Works and LDH; to make technical corrections; to authorize the Louisiana State Law Institute to make certain requested changes to references concerning LWC; to authorize the office of state register to make all necessary changes for applicable references to DCFS and Louisiana Works or LDH; to provide for the transfer of monies related to the transferred programs from DCFS to Louisiana Works and LDH; to provide for the monies held in the state treasury for the Fraud Detection Fund to be transferred to LDH; to provide for the continuity of programs and contracts transferred from DCFS to Louisiana Works and LDH; to provide for effective dates; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 11:780(C)(3)(a)(i) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§780. Reexamination of disability retirees; modification of benefits; restoration to active service

* * *

C.

* * *

(3)(a) If, pursuant to the provisions of this Subsection, the board of trustees reduces the pension of any disability retiree of this system who retired pursuant to a reciprocal agreement between this system and any other state or statewide public retirement system, the reduction shall be subject to Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, provided the retiree satisfies all of the following provisions of this Subparagraph:

(i) The vocational rehabilitation program within ~~the Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works furnishes the retiree with durable medical

1 equipment for use, subject to a requirement that the retiree be engaged in a gainful
2 occupation for at least twenty hours per week.

3 * * *

4 Section 2. R.S. 14:68.2.1(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

5 §68.2.1. Failure to report unauthorized use of supplemental nutrition assistance
6 program benefits; penalties

7 A. Employees of ~~the Department of Children and Family Services~~ the
8 Louisiana Department of Health, owners, employees and operators of retailers that
9 accept SNAP benefit access device transactions, and adult household members of
10 SNAP recipients shall report each instance of known fraud or abuse of SNAP
11 benefits, or any known unauthorized use of SNAP benefits or a SNAP benefit access
12 device as defined in R.S. 14:68.2, to the ~~fraud detection section, office of children~~
13 ~~and family services of the Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana
14 Department of Health via the Public Assistance Fraud Hot-Line as provided for by
15 R.S. 46:114.1.

16 * * *

17 Section 3. R.S. 14:74(D)(2) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

18 §74. Criminal neglect of family

19 * * *

20 D.

21 * * *

22 (2) If a fine is imposed, the court shall direct it to be paid in whole or in part
23 to the spouse or to the tutor or custodian of the child, to the court approved fiduciary
24 of the spouse or child, or to ~~the Louisiana Department of Children and Family~~
25 ~~Services~~ Louisiana Works in a FITAP or Family Independence Temporary
26 Assistance Program case or in a non-FITAP or Family Independence Temporary
27 Assistance Program case in which the ~~said~~ department is rendering services,
28 whichever is applicable; hereinafter, ~~said~~ the payee shall be referred to as the
29 "applicable payee." In addition, the court may issue a support order, after
30 considering the circumstances and financial ability of the defendant, directing the

1 defendant to pay a certain sum at such periods as the court may direct. This support
2 shall be ordered payable to the applicable payee. The amount of support as set by
3 the court may be increased or decreased by the court as the circumstances may
4 require.

5 * * *

6 Section 4. R.S. 15:933.1 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §933.1. Office of juvenile justice; statistical data collection; ~~Department of~~
8 ~~Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Department of Health

9 A. For the purpose of assisting ~~the Department of Children and Family~~
10 ~~Services~~ the Louisiana Department of Health in identifying changes in household
11 circumstances for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefit allotments, the
12 office of juvenile justice shall report identifying information to the department of
13 each juvenile placed under the custody of the office of juvenile justice for a sentence
14 of nine months or longer. ~~The Department of Children and Family Services~~ The
15 Louisiana Department of Health shall determine the required information necessary
16 to identify the juvenile and the juvenile's household.

17 B. If the juvenile has not reached the age of majority at the time of release,
18 the office of juvenile justice shall report to ~~the Department of Children and Family~~
19 ~~Services~~ the Louisiana Department of Health when the juvenile is released from
20 custody. For purposes of this Section, the age of majority means a child under the
21 age of twenty-two.

22 C. The office of juvenile justice shall inform ~~the Department of Children~~
23 ~~and Family Services~~ the Louisiana Department of Health no later than forty-five days
24 prior to release of the juvenile from custody. If the office of juvenile justice is unable
25 to provide notice forty-five days prior to release due to a modification of a
26 disposition by a court, the office shall notify the department within twenty-four hours
27 of receipt of the modified disposition.

28 D. Upon receipt of a report from the office of juvenile justice pursuant to this
29 Section, ~~the Department of Children and Family Services~~ the Louisiana Department

of Health shall adjust the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits for the juvenile's household to reflect the change in circumstance.

Section 5. R.S. 17:14.1(B)(1) and (C)(5) and 3047.6(A) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§14.1. Family literacy demonstration program

* * *

B. The family literacy demonstration program shall include the following:

(1) At least ten demonstration projects at locations determined by criteria established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in consultation with the office of literacy, ~~the Department of Children and Family Services,~~ Louisiana Works, and representatives, as selected by the board, from the private sector. There shall be at least one demonstration project in each congressional district of the state, but no more than two such projects in any one congressional district. To the extent possible, each demonstration project shall involve the local public school system, ~~Children and Family~~ Louisiana Works service providers, other local public and private literacy providers, and other governmental agencies in a cooperative and coordinated effort to plan, fund, and operate the project.

* * *

C. A demonstration project shall have not less than fifteen nor more than twenty adult participants in addition to the children of such participants and shall have the following components:

* * *

(5) Other components as determined by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in consultation with the office of literacy, the Department of Children and Family Services Louisiana Works, and representatives, as determined by the board, from the private sector.

* * *

§3047.6. Coordination with other agencies

A. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the administering agency shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with ~~the Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works and the Louisiana Department of Health to share information relative to an individual's qualification for certain aid or governmental benefits. Any information shared or furnished shall be held confidential by the administering agency and shall be reported in the aggregate only and contain no personally identifiable information.

* * *

Section 6. R.S. 17:3914(M)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§3914. Student information; privacy; legislative intent; definitions; prohibitions; parental access; penalties

* * *

M.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary and except as provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, the governing authority of each public or nonpublic school or other entity that participates in a meal program through which students are eligible for the ~~pandemic electronic benefits transfer program~~ or summer electronic benefits transfer program shall share student information with ~~the Department of Children and Family Services~~ the Louisiana Department of Health for the purpose of facilitating program administration, including but not limited to the automatic issuance of benefits to eligible families. Such information shall be limited to the first name, middle name, last name, address, school site code, student unique identifier, and date of birth of each student eligible for free or reduced price meals at school.

* * *

Section 7. The heading of Chapter 1 of Title 23 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, R.S. 23:1, 2, 3, 6(introductory paragraph), (1), (2), (3), (7), and (15), 7, 12, 14, 17, 73(A)(1)(introductory paragraph), (a) through (c), and (d)(introductory paragraph) 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(introductory paragraph), (1), and (5), 1600(2) and (3)(a), and 1693(J) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

CHAPTER 1. ~~LOUISIANA WORKFORCE COMMISSION~~ LOUISIANA WORKS

PART I. ESTABLISHMENT, POWERS, AND DUTIES

§1. ~~Louisiana Workforce Commission~~ Louisiana Works established; purpose; definitions

A. ~~The Louisiana Workforce Commission~~ Louisiana Works is hereby created and established to operate an integrated workforce development delivery system in this state, in particular through the integration of case management, job training, employment and employment-related education and training programs, and to administer the state's vocational rehabilitation services, independent living services, and blind services programs, and to administer the state's unemployment, ~~and~~ workers' compensation, and certain family support programs.

B. The duties of this ~~commission~~ department shall be exercised and discharged under the supervision and direction of the secretary. He shall have charge of the administration and enforcement of all laws, rules, policies, and regulations, which it is the duty of the ~~commission~~ department to administer and enforce, and shall direct all inspections and investigations, except as otherwise provided by law.

~~B.C.~~ The ~~commission~~ department shall meet the needs of all of the following:

(1) The employers of this state for the development of a highly skilled and productive workforce.

(2) The workers of this state for education, skills training, and labor market information to enhance their employability, earnings, and standard of living.

(3) The people of this state for a smooth and effective transition into the workforce, particularly persons receiving public assistance, displaced homemakers, displaced workers, adults with limited literacy skills, individuals with disabilities, and students moving from school to work.

(4) The communities of this state for programs that create jobs, attract employers, and encourage business expansion and retention.

(5) The taxpayers of this state for the efficient and effective expenditure of tax revenues for workforce development.

(6) Individuals of this state with disabilities for vocational rehabilitation, independent living services, and blind services under the Rehabilitation Act and the Randolph-Sheppard Act.

€ D. As used in this Title, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms ~~shall be~~ are defined as follows:

(1) ~~"Commission" means the Louisiana Workforce Commission.~~

(2) ~~(1)~~ "Council" means the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council.

(2) "Customer" means an individual who is eligible to receive assistance through Louisiana Works workforce or social service programs.

(3) "Department" means Louisiana Works.

~~(3)~~ (4) "Secretary" means the secretary of the ~~commission~~ department.

§2. Domicile of ~~commission~~ department

The domicile of ~~the Louisiana Workforce Commission~~ Louisiana Works shall be at in Baton Rouge.

§3. Employees; performance evaluations; salaries and expenses

The secretary shall, with the consent of the governor, appoint such assistants, such heads of divisions or bureaus, and such inspectors, statisticians, accountants, attorneys, and other employees as may be deemed necessary for the exercise of the powers and the performance of the duties of the ~~commission~~ department. The secretary, ~~or a person designated by him~~ his designee, shall develop a system of annual performance evaluations for all officers and employees of the ~~commission~~ department based on measurable job tasks. The salaries of ~~such~~ the officers and employees of the ~~commission~~ department shall be fixed by the secretary, with the approval of the governor. All officers and employees of the ~~commission~~ department shall receive from the state their necessary and actual expenses while traveling on the business of the ~~commission~~ department, either within or without the state.

* * *

1 §6. Powers and duties

2 In addition to any other powers and duties which may be conferred upon the
3 secretary by law, he ~~shall~~ may:

4 (1) ~~To the extent feasible under federal law, integrate~~ Integrate the
5 administration and functions of the programs under the authority of the ~~commission~~
6 department to achieve efficient and effective delivery of services.

7 (2) Administer each program and implement corresponding federal and state
8 legislation consolidated under the authority of the ~~commission~~ department in this
9 Title and other applicable state law.

10 (3) Determine the organization and procedural methods of the ~~commission~~
11 department in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.

12 * * *

13 (7) Coordinate with affected state agencies and workforce development
14 entities the integration of the delivery of all education, training, employment,
15 apprenticeship, and related programs to ~~assure~~ ensure the efficient and effective
16 provision of these services.

17 * * *

18 (15) Designate an existing senior-level staff member of ~~the Louisiana~~
19 ~~Workforce Commission~~ Louisiana Works to serve as liaison to the Board of
20 Elementary and Secondary Education, the Department of Education, the Board of
21 Regents, and the postsecondary education management boards to facilitate the
22 identification of regional and statewide workforce needs and work-based educational
23 and training opportunities and ensure coordination in the delivery of career and
24 technical education across all educational agencies and institutions.

25 §7. Access to books, accounts, records, etc.

26 The secretary or any duly authorized representative of the ~~commission~~
27 department shall, for the purpose of examination, have access to and the right to copy
28 any book, account, record, payroll, paper, ~~or document,~~ or electronic file relating to
29 the employment of workers.

30 * * *

1 §12. Electronic digitized records; ~~microfilm or microfiche records~~

2 A. The ~~commission~~ department may utilize an ~~imaging or~~ electronic
3 digitizing process capable of reproducing an unalterable image of the original source
4 document, ~~or any appropriate form of the microphotographic process,~~ for
5 recordation, filing, processing, and preservation of any records, forms, information,
6 statements, transcriptions of proceedings, transcriptions of records, electronic
7 recordings, letters, memoranda, and other documents and reports to maintain
8 efficient management and processing of records and to conserve storage space in
9 administration of this Title.

10 B. The department shall comply with the conversion standards and disposal
11 request procedures established by the division of archives, records management, and
12 history of the Department of State in accordance with R.S. 44:39 and 415.

13 * * *

14 §14. Employers to furnish information; keeping of records

15 A. Every employer shall furnish to the ~~commission~~ department all
16 information which the secretary or his representative may require. Every employer
17 shall ~~make~~ provide true and specific answers to all questions submitted by the
18 ~~commission department, orally verbally~~ or in writing, as required by the ~~commission~~
19 department.

20 B. Every employer shall keep a true and accurate record ~~of including but not~~
21 limited to the following: the name, address, and occupation of each ~~person employed~~
22 ~~by him~~ employee, of the daily and weekly hours worked by each employee, and ~~of~~
23 the wages paid each pay period to each employee. These records shall be kept on
24 file for at least one year after the date of the record.

25 * * *

26 §17. Integration of workforce development programs

27 A. All job-training, employment, vocational rehabilitation services,
28 independent living and blind services programs, and employment-related educational
29 programs and functions, along with any federal, state, and local revenues that fund
30 them, shall be integrated into the workforce development delivery system ~~to the~~

1 ~~extent feasible~~, as determined by the secretary, under the authority of the
2 ~~commission~~ department through its office of workforce development, and all
3 departments and agencies in which these programs are funded or operated shall
4 cooperate with the ~~commission~~ department to promptly effect this integration.

5 B. If monies are appropriated by the legislature to conduct a workforce
6 ~~facility condition economic~~ assessment, ~~service market data study/location analysis,~~
7 ~~and master plan~~, the secretary ~~shall transfer such monies to the Louisiana~~
8 ~~Community and Technical College System~~ may contract with any state agency,
9 higher education provider, or any private provider, subject to state procurement rules
10 and regulations, to conduct such workforce ~~facility condition economic~~ assessment;
11 ~~service market data study/location analysis, and master plan in order~~ to maximize the
12 delivery of workforce training and services throughout the state.

13 C. The secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable under law,
14 develop a uniform, statewide customer application and enrollment process to
15 determine an applicant's eligibility for workforce training and other services
16 provided by the department.

17 D. The department, in consultation with the Workforce Investment Council
18 or local workforce development boards, shall develop a comprehensive statewide
19 workforce plan that aligns with the requirements of the Workforce Innovation and
20 Opportunity Act of 2014, 29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq., or any superseding federal
21 legislation. The plan shall include but is not limited to the following:

22 (1) A projected analysis of the workforce needs of employers and customers.

23 (2) Policy standards in programs and processes to ensure statewide program
24 consistency among regional service areas.

25 (3) State outcome-based standards for measuring program performance to
26 evaluate quality standards of performance, program efficacy, program viability, and
27 prompt service to all customers.

28 (4) State oversight systems to review local workforce development board
29 compliance with state policies.

(5) Elements of 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 dislocation.

* * *

§73. Comprehensive labor market information system

A.(1) The council shall advise and direct on the development and content of a comprehensive labor market information system. The information provided, to the extent practicable, shall reflect the state's overall training and education effort. The system shall contain the following major components, and be regularly updated and readily available in a user-friendly format:

(a) A comprehensive system of consumer labor market information on employment and training opportunities, continually updated and readily available in a user-friendly format.

(b) ~~A report card or~~ An objective factual performance information about existing workforce development activities, ~~continually updated and readily available in a user-friendly format.~~

(c) An information system on projected workforce growth, and job growth, and demand statewide and by geographic regions, periodically updated and readily available in a user-friendly format.

(d) An automated job-matching information system that is accessible to employers, job seekers, and other users via the ~~Internet~~ internet, and that includes at a minimum the following:

* * *

(ii) Job market information based on surveys, including local, state, regional, and national, and international occupational and job availability information.

* * *

1 C. The council shall designate the ~~commission~~ department as the agency to
2 coordinate the development and implementation of the system and to maintain the
3 system. In the development and maintenance of the system, the ~~commission~~
4 department may use existing data collection systems operated by it, and to the extent
5 appropriate, establish electronic linkages to access data in the management
6 information systems operated by other departments or offices of state government.
7 It shall be readily available for public access through a variety of media, including
8 the ~~Internet~~ internet.

9 * * *

10 E.

11 * * *

12 (2) The public entities whose data and assistance shall be considered
13 necessary for the system to fulfill its purpose shall include the ~~commission~~
14 department, Louisiana Economic Development, and the Departments of Children and
15 Family Services, Education, Health, Public Safety and Corrections, ~~Social Services~~,
16 and Veterans Affairs, and in the governor's office, the Offices of Elderly Affairs,
17 Lifelong Learning, Women's Services, and ~~Workforce Development~~, and the State
18 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Board of Regents and any
19 other public entity that the ~~commission~~ department deems necessary.

20 §74. ~~Consumer~~ Customer information

21 For the ~~consumer~~ customer information component of the system, there shall
22 be a user-friendly formatted inventory of available training opportunities and, to the
23 extent possible, employment opportunities. This component of the system shall be
24 available for access on the ~~Internet~~ internet.

25 §75. ~~Report card~~ Data dashboard; data exchange agreements; data distribution;
26 personal identification prohibited

27 A. For the ~~report card~~ data dashboard information component of the system,
28 there shall be user-friendly formatted, objective factual performance information on
29 training programs, including statistical information on ~~placement rates~~ employment
30 outcomes, and other relevant data.

B. For the purpose of facilitating the objectives of this Part, public and private agencies engaged in, or responsible for, workforce development activities shall enter into interagency reciprocal data exchange agreements. Such agreements shall provide for automated record linkage and follow-up. To facilitate this process, each agency with workforce development data shall assign to each individual receiving its services a unique identifier. The individual's Social Security number, unless prohibited by federal law, may to be used to link disparate data bases. Social Security numbers shall only be used for the purpose of determining employment and earnings outcomes of the workforce development programs or identifying potential fraud. Only authorized personnel shall have access to personally identifiable information and Social Security numbers shall be removed from the respective data sets for any additional evaluation purposes.

C.(1) Interagency data shall be distributed in a protected and secure manner and in such a way so as not to permit the personal identification of any individual. If data is exchanged electronically ~~on magnetic media~~, individually identifiable and firm-specific information shall be encrypted. Individually identifiable and firm-specific information shall be unencrypted during the file linkages performed in the computer systems' core memory. While in the possession of other agencies, all files containing personally identifiable and firm-specific information shall be stored in a secure environment and accessed by authorized personnel only.

* * *

D.

* * *

(3)(a) Any such data, as provided in this Subsection, that is released to any state agency or any contractor acting on behalf of a state agency pursuant to this Subsection, may be released on a reimbursable basis and shall be used exclusively for execution of intended public duties. Such data shall not, under any circumstance, be accessed and used for any other purpose, subject to sanction of violators as provided for in Subparagraph (c) of this Paragraph. The administrator and the office of unemployment insurance administration shall not be liable for any violation by

1 any employee of the ~~commission~~ department, council, division of administration, or
2 any contractor working on behalf of either agency, provided their receipt of such
3 information was in accordance with the provisions of this Subsection.

4 (b) Any such data, as provided in this Section, that is received by any state
5 agency or any contractor acting on behalf of a state agency pursuant to this
6 Subsection, ~~must~~ shall be destroyed within thirty days following the completion of
7 its intended purpose as described in this Section.

8 * * *

9 E. This component of the system shall be developed so that it may be
10 available for access on the ~~Internet~~ internet.

11 §76. Forecasting

12 A. For the forecasting information component of the system, there shall be
13 information on projected workforce growth₂ ~~and~~ job growth₂ and demand. The
14 workforce₂ ~~and~~ job growth₂ and demand information shall also reflect occupational
15 information related to those targeted cluster industries identified by Louisiana
16 Economic Development.

17 B.(1) The information provided on the projected workforce growth shall
18 include the number of individuals employed and ~~the number of~~ information on the
19 individuals able and available for employment at present and projected at a future
20 date certain, both statewide and by geographic regions.

21 (2) Occupational information ~~on targeted cluster industries~~ shall include
22 ~~occupational~~ occupations within requirements for those industries, training and
23 education levels required ~~for those occupations~~, and salary information.

24 C.(1) For the purpose of projecting job growth and demand, the
25 Occupational Forecasting Conference is hereby established as a committee of the
26 council. The conference shall develop official information regarding the statewide
27 and regional workforce development needs of current, new, and emerging industries
28 as the council determines is necessary for both state and regional workforce
29 development system planning processes and state planning and budgeting. The
30 information, using quantitative and qualitative research methods, shall include at

1 least short-term and long-term forecasts of employment demand for jobs by
 2 occupation and industry; current entry and average wage wages forecasts for those
 3 occupations; and estimates of the supply of trained and qualified individuals
 4 available for employment in those occupations, with special focus upon those
 5 occupations and industries which require high skills and have ~~high entry wages and~~
 6 ~~previous experience wage levels~~ higher than average entry wages and high median
 7 and experienced wages. In the development of workforce estimates, the conference
 8 shall use, to the fullest extent possible, local occupational and workforce forecasts
 9 and estimates.

10 (2) The conference shall review data concerning the local and regional
 11 demands for short-term and long-term employment primarily in ~~high-skills/high-~~
 12 ~~wage~~ high-skills or high-wage jobs, as well as other jobs, ~~which data is generated~~
 13 ~~through surveys conducted as part of the state's Internet-based job matching and~~
 14 ~~labor market information system~~. The conference shall consider such data in
 15 developing its forecasts for statewide employment demand, including reviewing the
 16 local and regional data for common trends and conditions among localities or regions
 17 which may warrant inclusion of a particular occupation on the statewide
 18 occupational forecasting list developed by the conference. Based upon its review of
 19 such survey data, the conference shall also make recommendations semiannually to
 20 the ~~commission~~ Workforce Investment Council on additions or deletions to lists of
 21 locally targeted occupations.

22 * * *

23 (8)(a) A final report of the top future growth and demand jobs, statewide and
 24 by region, and the skills necessary to fill such jobs shall be made available for access
 25 on the internet and noted in the Louisiana Register as available on the internet. ~~Such~~
 26 ~~report shall also be available for purchase by private parties for the costs of~~
 27 ~~reproduction~~. The conference, in coordination with the council, should determine
 28 a strategy for promoting and disseminating the final report to the appropriate
 29 stakeholder groups as determined by the council.

30 * * *

§78. Workforce information systems

The ~~commission~~ department shall implement, subject to legislative appropriation, automated information systems that are necessary for the efficient and effective operation and management of the workforce development system. These information systems shall include but not be limited to the following:

(1) An integrated management system for the one-stop service delivery system, which includes, at a minimum, common registration and intake, screening for needs and benefits, case planning management and tracking, training benefits management, service and training provider management, performance reporting, executive information and reporting, and customer-satisfaction tracking and reporting.

* * *

(5) The ~~commission~~ department may procure independent verification and validation services associated with developing and implementing any workforce information system.

* * *

§1600. Benefit eligibility conditions

An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive benefits only if the administrator finds that:

* * *

(2)(a) ~~He~~ The individual has done both of the following:

(i) Registered ~~registered~~ for work. at, and

(ii) ~~thereafter has continued~~ Continued to report in accordance with such regulations as the administrator may ~~prescribe~~ prescribed by the administrator.

(b) The administrator may, by regulation, waive or alter either or both of the requirements of ~~this Section~~ Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph as to such types of cases or situations with respect to which he finds that compliance with such requirements would be oppressive, or would be inconsistent with the purposes of this Chapter; but no such regulation shall conflict with R.S. 23:1591.

1 (3)(a) All of the following apply:

2 (i) The individual ~~He~~ is able to work;

3 (ii) The individual is available for work;

4 (iii) The individual is actively searching ~~and is conducting an active search~~
5 for work.

6 * * *

7 §1693. Assignment of benefits; exemption of benefits from levy or execution;
8 deduction for support; deduction for overissuance of ~~food stamps~~ SNAP
9 benefits

10 * * *

11 J.(1) If a claimant is eligible to receive any temporary federal emergency
12 increase in unemployment compensation benefits in addition to the maximum
13 weekly benefit amounts established in R.S. 23:1474 or any additional federal base
14 benefit, the claimant, when filing a claim for state unemployment compensation
15 benefits, may submit to withholding of state income taxes at a rate of four percent.
16 ~~The Louisiana Workforce Commission~~ Louisiana Works shall electronically report
17 and remit to the Department of Revenue in the same manner as an "employer" as that
18 term is defined in R.S. 47:111 and required by R.S. 47:114.

19 (2) ~~The Louisiana Workforce Commission~~ Louisiana Works in consultation
20 with the Department of Revenue shall promulgate rules and regulations for the
21 implementation and administration of this Subsection.

22 * * *

23 Section 8. R.S. 23:73(E)(2) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

24 §73. Comprehensive labor market information system

25 * * *

26 E.

27 * * *

28 (2) The public entities whose data and assistance shall be considered
29 necessary for the system to fulfill its purpose shall include the ~~commission~~
30 department, Louisiana Economic Development, and the Departments of Children and

Family Services, Education, Elderly Affairs, Health, Public Safety and Corrections, ~~Social Services~~, and Veterans Affairs, and in the governor's office, the Offices of ~~Elderly Affairs~~, Lifelong Learning, Women's Services, and ~~Workforce Development~~, and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Board of Regents and any other public entity that the ~~commission~~ department deems necessary.

Section 9. R.S. 23:1693(I)(1)(introductory paragraph), (a), (b)(introductory paragraph), (i), and (ii), (2), and (3) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1693. Assignment of benefits; exemption of benefits from levy or execution; deduction for support; deduction for overissuance of food stamps SNAP benefits

* * *

~~I.(1) Upon and subject to implementation by the United States Department of Agriculture and agreement with the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services for and on behalf of the state food stamp program, the administrator of the office of employment security shall develop the procedure for reimbursement of all related administrative costs of any and all performed activities by the office of employment security under this Subsection attributable to the repayment of uncollected overissuance of food stamp allotments:~~

(a) An individual filing a new claim in the state for unemployment compensation shall, at the time of filing such claim, disclose whether he owes an uncollected overissuance of food stamp coupons Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits referred to in this Subsection as "SNAP benefits", as defined in Section 13(c)(1) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, 7 U.S.C. 2022(c)(1). The administrator shall notify the Louisiana Department of Health ~~Children and Family Services~~, or its designated office, of any individual who discloses that he owes any food stamp overissuance and who is determined to be eligible and qualified for unemployment compensation.

(b) The administrator shall deduct and withhold from any unemployment compensation payable to an individual who owes an uncollected overissuance of ~~food stamps~~ SNAP benefits:

(i) Any amount specified by the individual to the administrator to be deducted and withheld under this Subsection if the administrator also receives confirmation from the Louisiana Department of ~~Children and Family Services~~ Health that there has been an enforceable determination of overissuance.

(ii) Any amount determined pursuant to an agreement, if any, between the individual and the Louisiana Department of ~~Children and Family Services~~ Health pursuant to Section 13(c)(3)(A) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, 7 U.S.C. 2022(c)(3)(A).

* * *

(2) Any amount deducted and withheld ~~under~~ pursuant to this Subsection shall be paid by the administrator to the Louisiana Department of Health ~~Children and Family Services~~, or its designated office.

(3) Any amount deducted and withheld from payable benefits ~~under~~ pursuant to this Subsection shall for all purposes be treated as if it were paid to the individual as unemployment compensation and paid by such individual to the Louisiana Department of Health ~~Children and Family Services~~ as repayment of the uncollected overissuance of ~~food stamp allotments~~ SNAP benefits.

* * *

Section 10. R.S. 36:3(3), 4(A)(introductory paragraph) 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)(introductory paragraph), (B)(introductory paragraph), (C)(introductory paragraph), (D), and (E)(introductory paragraph) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§3. Definitions

As used in this Title, the following terms have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

* * *

(3) "Department" means a department of the executive branch of state government created or continued in this Title in accordance with the constitutional mandate contained in Article IV, Section 1 and in Article XIV, Section 6 of the Constitution of Louisiana and shall include ~~the Louisiana Workforce Commission~~ Louisiana Works.

* * *

§4. Structure of executive branch of state government

A. In accordance with the provisions of Article IV, Section 1 and Article XIV, Section 6 of the Constitution of Louisiana, all offices, boards, commissions, agencies, and instrumentalities of the executive branch of state government, whether constitutional or statutory, and/or their functions, powers, duties, and responsibilities shall be allocated, either in the Act by which this Title was created or by legislation enacted subsequent thereto, within the departments listed in this Section, except as provided in Subsections B and C of this Section, and in order to comply with this constitutional mandate, the agencies of the executive branch of state government hereinafter enumerated, whether heretofore created by the constitution or by statute, ~~and/or~~ or their functions, powers, duties, and responsibilities are allocated, in the manner hereinafter set forth in this Title, within the following designated departments:

* * *

(6) ~~Louisiana Workforce Commission~~ Louisiana Works.

* * *

CHAPTER 7. ~~LOUISIANA WORKFORCE COMMISSION~~ LOUISIANA WORKS

§301. ~~Louisiana Workforce Commission~~ Louisiana Works; creation; domicile;
composition; purposes and functions

A. ~~The Louisiana Workforce Commission~~ Louisiana Works is created and shall be a body corporate with the power to sue and be sued. The domicile of the ~~commission~~ department shall be in Baton Rouge. ~~The Louisiana Workforce Commission~~ Louisiana Works shall be deemed to be one of the twenty departments

1 of the executive branch of state government as provided in Article IV, Section 1 of
2 the Constitution of 1974 and as provided in this Title.

3 B. ~~The Louisiana Workforce Commission~~ Louisiana Works, through its
4 offices and officers, shall administer and enforce laws and programs designed to
5 protect the economic and physical well-being of Louisiana's workforce and pursue
6 the availability of the workforce to meet the needs of the economy. The ~~commission~~
7 department shall coordinate and administer programs conducted by the state, or
8 jointly with federal agencies, in the area of labor-management relations, manpower
9 evaluation and training, vocational rehabilitation, independent living, blind services,
10 employment, unemployment and workers' compensation, job safety, and the
11 licensing and regulation of certain types of work. The ~~commission~~ department shall
12 be responsible for delivering workforce development solutions for businesses and
13 economic sectors of the economy and coordinating with other state agencies and
14 offices for the delivery of workforce development solutions as provided for in R.S.
15 23:1801. The ~~commission~~ department shall perform functions related to
16 administration of the community services block grant for which provision is initially
17 made in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981.

18 C.(1) ~~The Louisiana Workforce Commission~~ Louisiana Works shall be
19 composed of the executive office of the secretary, the office of management and
20 finance, the office of workforce development, the office of unemployment insurance
21 administration, the office of workers' compensation administration, ~~the office of~~
22 ~~occupational information services~~, and such other offices as shall be created by law.
23 The Louisiana Workforce Investment Council, as more specifically provided in R.S.
24 23:2042 et seq., shall be placed within the executive office of the secretary.

25 (2) Except when changes are necessary for the efficient delivery of
26 workforce development solutions for businesses and economic sectors of the
27 economy, whenever the secretary determines that the administration of the functions
28 of the ~~commission~~ department may be more efficiently performed by eliminating,
29 merging, or consolidating existing offices or establishing new offices, the secretary
30 shall present a plan therefor to the legislature for its approval by statute.

31 * * *

1 §308. Offices; purposes and functions

A. The purposes for which the offices of the ~~Louisiana Workforce~~
~~Commission~~ Louisiana Works are created shall be as set forth in this Section.

B.(1) The office of workforce development shall perform the functions of the state relating to the administration, enforcement, supervision, and direction of programs related to the formulation of standards and policies promoting the welfare of wage-earning women; the employment of individuals with disabilities; vocational rehabilitation; occupational information services; independent living; blind services; customer service delivery; employment; training; minimum wage standards; welfare of workers and labor disputes, including the promotion of voluntary conciliation of disputes; regulation and certification of private employment agencies; minor labor laws; the formulation of policy relative to labor apprenticeship; worker protection programs, including medical payment; and employment security and employment service field services, all in accordance with applicable laws.

15 (2) In addition to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the office of workforce
16 development shall also perform the functions of the state relating to data processing
17 and the development, analysis, and dissemination of labor market and occupational
18 information, including but not limited to training and forecasting data.

19 * * *

20 §309. Transfer of agencies to Louisiana Workforce Commission Louisiana Works

21 A. The following agencies are transferred to and hereafter shall be within the
22 Louisiana Workforce Commission Louisiana Works, as provided in R.S. 36:802:

23 * * *

24 B. The following agencies are transferred to and hereafter shall be within the
25 ~~Louisiana Workforce Commission~~ Louisiana Works, as provided in R.S. 36:901 et
26 seq.:

27 * * *

C. The following agencies are transferred to and hereafter shall be within the
Louisiana Workforce Commission Louisiana Works as provided in R.S. 36:803:

80 * * *

D. The powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities relating to Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (R.S. 23:3001 et seq.) are hereby transferred to ~~the Louisiana Workforce Commission~~ Louisiana Works to be exercised and performed by the ~~executive director~~ secretary, in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 36:921 et seq.

E. The following agencies are transferred to and hereafter shall be within ~~the Louisiana Workforce Commission~~ Louisiana Works and shall perform and exercise their powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities as provided by law:

* * *

Section 11. R.S. 36:309(F) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§309. Transfer of agencies to ~~Louisiana Workforce Commission~~ Louisiana Works

* * *

F. The powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities related to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, including employment and training programs, are hereby transferred to Louisiana Works to be exercised and performed by the secretary, in accordance with the provisions of Part II of Chapter 22 of Title 36, R.S. 36:851 et seq.

Section 12. R.S. 46:18(A), 52.1(A) and (B)(1)(introductory paragraph), (2), and (3), 114(E)(1)(introductory paragraph) and (3), 114.1, 114.4(D) and (E), 116, 234, 301(A)(1) and (2), 321(2) through (5), 322(2) through (6), 323(introductory paragraph), (3), and (4), 324(A), (B), (C), (D), and (E)(introductory paragraph), (1), and (2)(introductory paragraph), 325(introductory paragraph), 326 through 328, 331(A)(1) through (3), 332, 352(1)(b), 431, 433(A), 434, 460.1(A), (B)(4) and (5), and (C)(1) and (2), 460.4(A), 932(12), and 936 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§18. Health care records; copies

A. The provider of health care shall furnish to the claimant, the person appointed to represent the claimant in his dealings with the Social Security Administration, or an agent with written authorization made pursuant to 45 CFR 164.508, upon request, a copy of any records that are necessary to support his filing for social security disability benefits or supplemental security income benefits under any provision of the Social Security Act. Cost of each photocopy shall not exceed

fifty cents per page for the first five pages and twenty-five cents for each additional page except that the amount due shall not be less than the amount paid by the ~~Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Department of Health for such copies. Payment for any copies made in connection with disability determinations shall be made to the health care provider's agent instead of the health care provider when the agent makes the copies.

* * *

§52.1. Integrated case management; "No Wrong Door" service integration of various social service programs

A. The legislature recognizes that the ~~department provides~~ Louisiana Department of Health, Department of Children and Family Services, and Louisiana Works provide services to individuals with multiple needs; ~~however,~~ However, the conventional service delivery system of requiring individuals to access various offices within the ~~department state~~ to address those multiple needs creates a ~~barrier~~ barriers to the delivery of those services and entry into the workforce. ~~Additionally,~~ these These needs can be better met, more efficiently and less costly, through integrated case management at a ~~"no wrong door"~~ single service location with a single case worker. It is the intent of the legislature to ~~provide a social services department that is streamlined in~~ streamline the delivery of services and ~~incorporates~~ incorporate integrated case management models for clients and families served by multiple departments and programs.

B. For purposes of this Section:

(1) "Integrated case management" means ~~a team approach to accessing the needs of a client and, if applicable, the family, establishing a comprehensive plan for addressing all those needs, and utilizing service integration to deliver required services. An integrated case management model includes:~~ an accessible, customer-centered approach that coordinates the necessary services that meet the needs of each individual or family which, if applicable, establishes a comprehensive, integrated service plan that addresses all of those needs and outcomes, which is continually monitored and updated as necessary.

* * *

(2) ~~"Multidisciplinary team" or "team" means a team comprised of appropriate department program staff members, regardless of their title or office assignment. It shall also include staff of the Louisiana Department of Health, Louisiana Workforce Commission, and Department of Public Safety and Corrections and local community organizations.~~ "Integrated service plan" means a plan that is based on the client's strengths, risks, service needs, and improvement plan.

(3) "Service integration" means a process by which a range of social, education, and workforce employment and training services are delivered in a coordinated and seamless manner to provide client-oriented services, increase early intervention and prevention opportunities, improve client outcomes, and establish provider accountability through performance measures. Service integration includes:

(a) A ~~"No Wrong One Door" site business model which requires co-location of a multidisciplinary team to make~~ makes it easier for the client to obtain service services and ~~to allow the team to learn~~ allows various programs to work well seamlessly together. ~~In the event co-location is not physically possible, the team members shall provide a seamless link with the other team members and resources.~~

(b) Cross-training among the ~~multidisciplinary team,~~ various program staff to ensure a general understanding of ~~each other's services and processes~~ all programs that a client may require.

(c) Flexible use of funding among the ~~offices and, if applicable, departments and community programs, comprising the multidisciplinary team~~ to ensure that the client receives services for which he is eligible.

* * *

§114. Fraud in obtaining assistance; withholding information concerning property, income or beneficiary, or personal circumstances

* * *

E.(1) Persons receiving food stamps or Aid to Families with Dependent Children, or a successor of either program, who have been determined by the Department of Children and Family Services or the Louisiana Department of Health in an administrative hearing, or a court of competent jurisdiction after final appeal,

1 to have fraudulently obtained such food stamps or Aid to Families with Dependent
2 Children, or benefits or assistance from a successor of either program, shall be
3 ineligible for further participation in the program in accordance with the following
4 schedule:

5 * * *

6 (3) Persons receiving medical assistance under provisions of Title XIX of the
7 Social Security Act who have been determined by ~~the Department of Children and~~
8 ~~Family Services~~ or the Louisiana Department of Health to have fraudulently obtained
9 such medical assistance may be suspended from the medical assistance program for
10 twelve months.

11 §114.1. Public Assistance Fraud Hot-Line

12 To encourage the reporting of incidents of public assistance fraud, the
13 ~~Department of Children and Family Services, office of children and family services,~~
14 ~~through its fraud detection section,~~ Louisiana Department of Health shall provide a
15 statewide, toll-free telephone service, known as the Public Assistance Fraud Hot-
16 Line, when sufficient funds are made available by the legislature for such purpose,
17 or when funds are available from any other source.

18 * * *

19 §114.4. Fraud Detection Fund

20 * * *

21 D. The monies in the fund may be appropriated by the legislature to the ~~office~~
22 ~~of children and family services of the Department of Children and Family Services~~
23 Louisiana Department of Health for the enhancement of fraud detection and recovery
24 activities in an amount not to exceed the balance on hand in the fund at the end of the
25 previous calendar year. These funds shall not be used to replace, displace, or
26 supplant state general funds appropriated for daily operation of any regional fraud
27 detection activities of the ~~office of children and family services~~ Louisiana
28 Department of Health.

1 E. All unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of each
2 fiscal year shall remain in the fund to the credit of the ~~office of children and family~~
3 ~~services~~ Louisiana Department of Health.

4 * * *

5 §116. Prima facie proof of pleadings

6 Pleadings filed on behalf of the Department of Children and Family Services
7 or the Louisiana Department of Health in actions to recover the value of ineligible
8 public financial assistance payments or benefits shall be accompanied by an itemized
9 statement of the amount of overissuance or overpayment together with the amount
10 to which the recipient was entitled, if any. When accompanied by an affidavit of the
11 assistant secretary of the office administering such payments or benefits to the
12 correctness thereof as to the truth of the facts alleged to the best of the affiant's
13 knowledge and belief, such itemized statement shall be accepted as prima facie proof
14 of the disbursement and receipt of said payments and the amount thereof.

15 * * *

16 §234. Judicially appointed curator

17 In lieu of selecting a payee to receive assistance, the ~~Department of Children~~
18 ~~and Family Services~~ department, pursuant to federal regulations, may require the
19 referral of the case to the district court for a judicially appointed curator. The court
20 is authorized to appoint a capable, interested, and willing third person, irrespective
21 of whether he is related to the child within any of the degrees of relationship set forth
22 in Section 406(a) of Title IV of the Social Security Act, to receive the payments and
23 use them in the best interest of the child. The curator shall be accountable at
24 whatever intervals are specified by the court and the court shall require a bond or
25 whatever other security is deemed necessary by the court to ensure the faithful
26 performance of the curator's duties. The curator, upon being appointed, shall take the
27 oath and letters of authority may be issued to him. In those instances in which the
28 department requires the case be referred to the court for the appointment of a curator,
29 each local governing authority shall have the option in any case to provide
30 compensation to the curator.

31 * * *

§301. Legislative findings; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program educational component; reporting requirements

A. The legislature finds and declares the following:

(1) The program formerly known as "food stamps" was renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in October 2008. SNAP is administered at the federal level by the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and at the state level by the Louisiana Department of ~~Children and Family Services~~ Health, hereafter referred to as the "department".

(2) SNAP is the cornerstone of the federal food assistance programs and provides crucial support to needy households and to those making the transition from ~~welfare~~ public assistance to work.

* * *

SUBPART E-4. SNAP WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION

~~PILOT INITIATIVE~~

§321. Findings

The legislature hereby finds and declares the following:

* * *

(2) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as "food stamps" and referred to ~~hereafter~~ in this Subpart as "SNAP", provides crucial support to needy households and to persons making the transition from ~~welfare~~ public assistance to work.

(3) Pursuant to the federal Food Security Act of 1985, states are required to provide employment and job training services to SNAP ~~recipients~~ customers who are not exempt from the mandatory work registration requirements of the program.

(4) Federal regulations (~~7 CFR 273.24~~), 7 CFR 273.24, limit the duration of receipt of SNAP benefits by nonworking, able-bodied adults without dependents who do not qualify for certain exemptions to a total of three months in any three-year period. However, states may submit to the federal government applications, commonly known as "waivers", to have this three-month limit waived. If approved, such waivers allow able-bodied, nonworking, nonexempt adults to receive SNAP

benefits for an unlimited duration ~~provided that~~ if those persons meet other eligibility standards of the program. Nationally, waivers of this type have become the standard in SNAP rather than the exception, as forty states and territories, including Louisiana, had a statewide or territory-wide waiver in effect and six other states and territories had a partial-state or partial-territory waiver in effect as of January 1, 2014.

(5) When coordinated and delivered in an effective manner, workforce training services for public assistance ~~recipients~~ customers can be of great value to persons who desire to become self-sufficient and to businesses that strive for greater competitiveness through employing an improved workforce.

§322. Definitions

As used in this Subpart, the following terms have the meaning ascribed to them in this Section:

* * *

(2) "Customer" means a recipient of SNAP benefits who participates in the program provided for in this Subpart.

~~(2)~~ (3) "Department" means the Louisiana Department of ~~Children and Family Services~~ Health.

~~(3)~~ (4) "FNS" means the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, the office of the federal government that administers SNAP.

~~(4) "Participant" means a recipient of SNAP benefits who participates in the pilot initiative provided for in this Subpart.~~

(5) ~~"Pilot initiative"~~ "Program" means the workforce training and education ~~pilot initiative~~ program provided for in this Subpart.

(6) "SNAP" means the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program administered at the federal level by the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture and at the state level by the Louisiana Department of ~~Children and Family Services~~ Health.

1 §323. Goals

2 The goals of the ~~pilot initiative~~ shall program include, without limitation, the
3 following:

4 * * *

5 (3) To provide support to SNAP ~~recipients~~ customers who choose to further
6 their education.

7 (4) To yield a model for incentivizing training and education for public
8 assistance ~~recipients~~ customers that can be replicated throughout the state.

9 §324. Workforce training and education ~~pilot initiative~~ program; creation; functions

10 A. A workforce training and education ~~pilot initiative~~ program is hereby
11 created within SNAP for the purpose of improving employment opportunities for
12 nonworking SNAP ~~recipients~~ customers and enhancing workforce readiness. The
13 department shall administer the ~~pilot initiative~~ program in accordance with the
14 provisions of this Subpart.

15 B. The department shall establish the ~~pilot initiative~~ program in a parish with
16 a population of more than one hundred thousand and less than one hundred fifty
17 thousand according to the latest federal decennial census and in which is located the
18 main campus of a public four-year college or university.

19 C. ~~Participants~~ Customers to be served by the ~~pilot initiative~~ program shall
20 include, exclusively, all ABAWDs residing in the parish who are not exempted by
21 any federal or state policy, other than through a waiver of such a policy, from the
22 limitation on SNAP benefits established pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24.

23 D.(1) As a necessary precondition for implementing the ~~pilot initiative~~
24 ~~program~~, the department shall ensure that the limitation on duration of the receipt of
25 SNAP ~~benefit recipient~~ benefits by nonexempt ABAWDs provided in 7 CFR
26 273.24 is effective in the parish in which the ~~pilot initiative~~ program is established.

27 (2) If nonexempt ABAWDs in the parish in which the ~~pilot initiative~~
28 ~~program~~ is established are not subject to any limitation on duration of eligibility for
29 receipt of SNAP benefits as a result of a waiver granted to the state by FNS, then the
30 department shall cause ~~such~~ the waiver to be rescinded, cancelled, or otherwise
31 rendered null and without effect for that parish.

(3) Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed to require or prohibit the continuation or cancellation of any waiver granted to the state by FNS in any parish other than the parish in which the pilot initiative program is established.

E. As its essential function, the ~~the pilot initiative~~ program shall provide to each ~~participant~~ customer, at the time of benefits eligibility redetermination, a six-month extension of SNAP benefits conditioned upon submission of sufficient documentation, as determined by the department, of ~~one or more~~ any of the following:

(1) The ~~participant~~ customer meets ~~one or more~~ any of the following criteria relative to educational advancement:

(a) In the previous six months, the ~~participant~~ customer satisfied requirements established by the department in rule relative to enrollment in an accredited postsecondary ~~educational~~ education institution that grants associate or baccalaureate degrees.

(b) In the previous six months, the ~~participant~~ customer satisfied requirements established by the department in rule relative to enrollment in a an educational program designed to lead to a high school diploma.

(c) In the previous six months, the ~~participant~~ customer satisfied requirements established by the department in rules relative to enrollment in a general education development test preparation course.

(d) The ~~participant~~ customer earned a high school diploma or a general education development certificate.

(2) The ~~participant~~ customer meets criteria relative to workforce readiness as required by the department in rule. Such criteria may include but shall not be limited to the following:

* * *

§325. Duties of participants customers

Each ~~participant~~ customer in the ~~pilot initiative~~ program shall do all of the following:

* * *

1 §326. Duties of the department

2 A. The department shall submit to FNS applications for any waiver,
3 exemption, or other formal authorization and any state plan amendment as may be
4 necessary to implement the ~~pilot initiative~~ program provided for in this Subpart.
5 Such submissions by the department to FNS shall provide for all of the following:

6 (1) Reinstatement in the parish ~~in which the pilot initiative~~ where the
7 program is established of the limit on receipt of SNAP benefits of three months in
8 a three-year period for ABAWDs.

9 (2) Establishment of benefit extensions in six-month increments for
10 ~~participants~~ customers who meet workforce training or education requirements of the
11 ~~pilot initiative~~ program.

12 (3) Any other functions as may be necessary for the department to establish
13 and operate the ~~pilot initiative~~ program in a manner ~~which~~ that conforms with
14 applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

15 B. The department shall enter into any cooperative endeavor agreements,
16 contracts, and other arrangements with ~~the Louisiana Workforce Commission~~, any
17 other government agency, ~~and~~ or any community partner as may be necessary to
18 ensure adequate availability of workforce training to ~~participants~~ customers in the
19 parish in which the ~~pilot initiative~~ program is established.

20 C. The department shall institute all departmental policies and procedures
21 necessary to ensure that the process for SNAP benefits eligibility redetermination in
22 the parish ~~in which the pilot initiative~~ where the program is established meets all of
23 the following requirements:

24 (1) Eligibility redetermination for each ~~participant~~ customer occurs no less
25 frequently than once every six months.

26 (2) Eligibility redetermination for each ~~participant~~ customer ~~includes~~ shall
27 include a procedure for collecting and verifying documentation from the ~~participant~~
28 customer of his engagement in a workforce training or education activity as provided
29 in R.S. 46:324.

1 D.(1)(a) ~~Prior to commencement of the pilot initiative, the~~ The department
2 shall transmit notice in writing to all ABAWDs in the parish ~~in which the pilot~~
3 ~~initiative~~ where the program is established indicating that continuation of benefits
4 beyond the three-month limit that is to be reinstated will be conditioned upon
5 engagement by ~~participants~~ customers in acceptable workforce training or education
6 activities.

7 (b) ~~On separate days prior to commencement of the pilot initiative, the~~ The
8 department may transmit to ABAWDs in the parish ~~in which the pilot initiative~~
9 ~~where the program~~ is established duplicates of the notice provided for in
10 Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, and may take any other actions it deems
11 necessary to provide ABAWDs with adequate notification of the changes in SNAP
12 benefits eligibility to be instituted through the ~~pilot initiative~~ program.

13 (2) ~~Within two weeks of commencement of the pilot initiative, the~~ The
14 department shall transmit to each ~~participant~~ customer a form that provides a clear
15 description of requirements for continuation of benefits eligibility to be instituted
16 through the ~~pilot initiative~~ program, and a space in which the ~~participant~~ customer
17 may affirmatively acknowledge that he understands these requirements.

18 (3) During the operation of the ~~pilot initiative~~ program, the department shall
19 promptly notify each ~~participant~~ customer of any decision concerning his eligibility
20 for SNAP benefits made pursuant to the redetermination process provided for in
21 Subsection C of this Section.

22 E. The secretary of the department shall promulgate all rules and regulations
23 in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act as ~~may be~~ necessary to
24 implement the provisions of this Subpart.

25 §327. Notification to legislative committees; reporting

26 A. After receiving federal approval as provided in R.S. 46:328 and before
27 commencement of the pilot initiative, the department shall transmit to the members
28 of the House Committee on Health and Welfare and to the members of the Senate
29 Committee on Health and Welfare a written notice that addresses the purpose and
30 function of the ~~pilot initiative and indicates the commencement date of the initiative~~

1 program. The department may transmit the notice required by this Subsection via
2 electronic mail.

3 ~~B. No later than twelve months after commencement of the pilot initiative,~~
4 ~~and at least annually thereafter, the~~ The department shall annually submit a written
5 report providing a summary and evaluation of outcomes of the ~~pilot initiative~~
6 program to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee
7 on Health and Welfare. The department may include the report with its submission
8 of any other report pertaining to SNAP, including without limitation any report
9 required by Subpart E-2 of this Part.

10 §328. ~~Effectiveness contingent upon federal approval; termination~~ Termination of
11 the program

12 ~~A. Implementation of the pilot initiative shall be contingent upon approval~~
13 ~~by FNS.~~

14 ~~B.(1)~~ Subject to legislative oversight as provided in the Administrative
15 Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., the department may terminate the ~~pilot initiative~~
16 program by emergency rule if the secretary of the department determines that
17 workforce participation outcomes or educational attainment have not improved to
18 a satisfactory degree as a result of the ~~initiative~~ program.

19 ~~(2) The secretary of the department is hereby authorized and directed to~~
20 ~~collaborate with the secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission in workforce~~
21 ~~participation outcomes evaluation prior to issuing any emergency rule to terminate~~
22 ~~the pilot initiative.~~

23 SUBPART E-5. SNAP WORK REQUIREMENTS

24 §331. Findings and intent

25 A. The legislature hereby finds and declares the following:

26 (1) It is the policy of this state to encourage self-sufficiency so that
27 Louisianians may reduce dependence on public ~~benefits~~ assistance to meet basic
28 needs and become economically self-reliant.

29 (2) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as
30 "food stamps" and referred to ~~hereafter~~ in this Subpart as "SNAP", provides support

1 to needy households and to persons making the transition from ~~welfare~~ public
2 assistance to work.

3 (3) Federal regulations provided for in 7 CFR 273.24 limit the duration of
4 receipt of SNAP benefits by nonworking, able-bodied adults without dependents
5 (ABAWD) who do not qualify for certain exemptions to a total of three months in
6 any three-year period. However, states may submit to the federal government
7 applications, commonly known as "waivers", to have this three-month limit waived.
8 If approved, such waivers allow able-bodied, nonworking, nonexempt adults to
9 receive SNAP benefits for an unlimited duration if those persons meet other
10 eligibility standards of the program. Louisiana has long used these waivers to exempt
11 the majority of able-bodied adults without dependents from the federal work
12 requirement.

13 * * *

14 §332. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program work requirements; restriction
15 on waivers and exemptions

16 A. Unless expressly required by federal law, the Louisiana Department of
17 ~~Children and Family Services~~ Health shall not seek, apply for, accept, or renew any
18 waiver of work requirements established by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
19 Program under 7 U.S.C. 2015(o).

20 B. The Louisiana Department of ~~Children and Family Services~~ Health shall
21 not exercise the state's option to provide any exemptions from the work requirement
22 under 7 U.S.C. 2015(o)(6)(F).

23 * * *

24 §352. Definitions

25 As used in this Part, the following definitions apply:

26 (1) "Public assistance" means any of the following:

27 * * *

28 (b) Nutrition assistance benefits of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
29 Program administered by the Louisiana Department of ~~Children and Family Services~~
30 Health.

31 * * *

§431. Curator for receipt and administration of welfare benefits

Any mentally incompetent person who is entitled to public assistance or who has the right to apply for public assistance but cannot make application because of his incompetency and who does not have a duly appointed and qualified legal representative, may have a curator appointed for him solely for the purpose of representing his interest in qualifying for, receiving and administering welfare public assistance benefits. The appointment shall be made by any court of competent jurisdiction, subject to the proceedings hereinafter outlined.

* * *

§433. Bond; account; oath and letters

A. The curator shall be accountable at whatever intervals are specified by the court and the court shall have the right to require a bond or whatever other security is deemed necessary by the court to ensure the faithful performance of the curator's duties; ~~the~~ The curator, upon being appointed, shall take an oath; and letters of authority may be issued to him.

* * *

§434. Final discharge of curator

A. The curator shall be discharged from his duties ~~upon~~ for any of the
following reasons:

~~(a)~~ (1) Upon the interdiction of the incompetent person under existing law;

(b) (2) Upon proper proof to the court that the incompetent person has become sufficiently competent to administer his ~~welfare~~ public assistance benefits;

or.

(c) (3) Upon the signing of an order by the court that made the original appointment, upon its own motion, or otherwise, terminating the appointment of the curator for any other reason.

B. Upon being discharged, the curator shall render a full and final accounting to the court of his administration; and upon so doing, the curator shall be relieved from any further responsibility and his bond shall be cancelled and whatever other security may have been given shall be released.

* * *

1 §450.1. Electronic authorization and distribution of public assistance benefits and
2 services

3 A. The office of children and family services, Department of Children and
4 Family Services, and the Louisiana Department of Health shall contract for the
5 development and implementation of an electronic issuance system for the
6 authorization and distribution of benefits and services provided by public assistance
7 programs. Such programs shall include but not be limited to issuance of benefits and
8 services of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Family
9 Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP), and shall require that all
10 recipients who participate in programs for which benefits and services are authorized
11 and distributed through the system shall obtain benefits through ~~such~~ the electronic
12 issuance system, subject only to ~~such~~ the exceptions ~~as shall be~~ necessary for the
13 effective functioning of the ~~program~~ programs.

14 B. The contract program selected to provide the electronic issuance system
15 shall include but not be limited to:

16 * * *

17 (4) ~~Instruction of~~ Instructions for recipients ~~in the~~ on how to use of the
18 system.

19 (5) ~~Instruction of~~ Instructions for retailers and other participants in the
20 program ~~in the~~ on how to use of the system.

21 * * *

22 C. The contract program shall also:

23 (1) Provide merchants the option to utilize commercial point of sale terminals
24 provided by a third-party processor to interface with the electronic benefits transfer
25 (EBT) provider selected by the department.

26 (2) Provide for reimbursement by the ~~electronic benefits transfer~~ EBT
27 provider selected by the department of any and all costs incurred by the merchant in
28 the processing of benefits under the electronic issuance system for public assistance
29 programs for telephone monthly service charges and supplies for retailers utilizing
30 the state-provided EBT equipment.

31 * * *

1 §460.4. Educational opportunities to promote self-sufficiency

2 A. The legislature hereby finds that an employment-focused program has
3 succeeded in reducing ~~welfare~~ public assistance rolls by focusing on the importance
4 of work as a way of escaping poverty; education and employment can give ~~welfare~~
5 public assistance recipients the literacy, knowledge, and aptitudes to obtain and
6 retain private career-path employment; that these programs retain their importance
7 in reducing ~~welfare~~ public assistance dependency; that new federal legislation places
8 an increased emphasis on employment and allows the combining of
9 employment-related activities with educational activities and that to the extent that
10 they can be funded under the new federal welfare reform program without hindering
11 the other federally recognized goals, they should be funded.

12 * * *

13 §932. Powers and duties

14 The office shall have the following powers and duties:

15 * * *

16 (12) To administer all federal funds appropriated, allocated, or otherwise
17 made available to the state for services to the elderly, whether by block grant or in
18 any other form, with the exception of funds for programs administered by the
19 Department of Children and Family Services or the Louisiana Department of Health,
20 on August 15, 1995, or the Louisiana Department of Health on October 1, 2025, and
21 to distribute those funds in accordance with and consistent with R.S. 46:936.

22 * * *

23 §936. Statement of intent

24 A. It is the intention of the legislature that, insofar as is practical and
25 consistent with the efficient administration of state government, programs and
26 services for the elderly population of Louisiana, with the exception of any program
27 administered by the Department of Children and Family Services or the Louisiana
28 Department of Health on August 15, 1995, or the Louisiana Department of Health
29 on October 1, 2025, shall eventually be consolidated within the office of elderly
30 affairs, to be administered at the local level by the sixty-four parish voluntary
31 councils on aging.

1 B. It is further the intention of the legislature that the ~~Office of Elderly~~
2 ~~Affairs~~ office of elderly affairs administer all federal funds appropriated, allocated,
3 or otherwise made available to the state for services to the elderly, whether by block
4 grant or in any other form, with the exception of funds for programs administered by
5 the Department of Children and Family Services or the Louisiana Department of
6 Health on August 15, 1995, or the Louisiana Department of Health on October 1,
7 2025. The office of elderly affairs shall distribute such funds in accordance with
8 appropriate state and federal requirements and consistent with this Section.

9 Section 13. R.S. 46:1(2), (4), and (6), 54, 56(A) and (B)(1), 59, 60, 107(A)(1),
10 114(A), (B), (C)(1)(introductory paragraph) and (2), (D), and (E)(1)(introductory paragraph),
11 114.2, 114.3(A) and (B), 116, 230.1(A) and (B), 231(11) and (24), 231.4(A) and (D), 236,
12 237(A),(E),(F), and (G), 352(1)(a) and (2)(a), 441, 443, 444, 447, 450.1(A), 460.1, 460.5(A),
13 460.7(A) and (C), 460.8(A)(1) and (B), 460.10, 932(12), and 936 are hereby amended and
14 reenacted and R.S.46:107(E) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

15 §1. Definitions

16 As used in this Title, the following definitions shall apply:

17 * * *

18 (2) "Department" means the Department of Children and Family Services,
19 Louisiana Works, or Louisiana Department of Health.

20 * * *

21 (4) "Parish or district office" means parish or district office of the Department
22 of Children and Family Services, Louisiana Works, or Louisiana Department of
23 Health.

24 * * *

25 (6) "Secretary" means the secretary of the Department of Children and
26 Family Services, Louisiana Works, or Louisiana Department of Health.

27 * * *

28 §54. Parish offices

29 A. There shall be in each parish of the state a parish office of the department;
30 provided that the department may unite two or more parishes and form a district
31 office. All duties and responsibilities set forth in this Chapter for parish offices shall
32 also apply to the district offices.

B. Under rules and regulations of the department, the field and district offices shall administer all forms of public assistance within the department's purview in respective parishes.

* * *

§56. Applications and client case records; definitions; confidentiality; waiver;
penalty

A. Applications for assistance and information contained in case records of clients of the Louisiana Department of Health, the Department of Children and Family Services, Louisiana Works, or the office of elderly affairs, for the purpose of adult protective services, shall be confidential and, except as otherwise provided, it shall be unlawful for any person to solicit, disclose, receive, make use of, or to authorize, knowingly permit, participate in, or acquiesce in the use of applications or client case records or the information contained therein for any purpose not directly connected with the administration of the programs of the department.

B.(1) For the purposes of this Section, "department" means the Louisiana Department of Health, the Department of Children and Family Services, Louisiana Works, and the adult protection agency as provided in R.S. 15:1503. It is the express intent of this Section that the Louisiana Department of Health, the Department of Children and Family Services, Louisiana Works, 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 any contrary provision of federal law or regulation.

* * *

§59. Welfare demonstration, experimental and other projects

The Department of Children and Family Services, Louisiana Works, and the Louisiana Department of Health are authorized to make use of staff and equipment to carry out experimental and demonstration projects whose costs are otherwise totally financed by the federal government under the provisions of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315) or any other programs totally financed from federal funds.

1 §60. Educational leaves with pay; federal funds

2 The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services, Louisiana
3 Works, and Louisiana Department of Health may grant educational leave with pay
4 to an employee of the department in compliance with federal administrative rules
5 and federal laws that allow federal matching funds to be used in further educating
6 employees of the Department of Children and Family Services, Louisiana Works,
7 and Louisiana Department of Health in the various states.

8 * * *

9 §107. Appeal and review; venue for judicial review

10 A.(1) The Department of Children and Family Services, Louisiana Works,
11 and the office of the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, through their
12 respective appeal sections, shall provide for a system of hearings and are responsible
13 for fulfillment of all hearing provisions as prescribed under Title I, IV-A, X, XIV,
14 XVI, XIX, or XX of the Social Security Act and under the Food Stamp Act, Public
15 Law 91-671. Under these provisions, an opportunity for a hearing shall be granted
16 at the state level to any applicant, ~~or recipient,~~ or customer who makes a timely
17 request for a hearing because his claim for assistance, services, or nutrition
18 assistance benefits is denied or is not acted upon with reasonable promptness and to
19 any recipient who is aggrieved by an agency action resulting in suspension,
20 reduction, discontinuance, or termination of benefits.

21 * * *

22 E. For purposes of this Section, "customer" means an applicant or recipient
23 of public assistance benefits and services that fall within the purview of Louisiana
24 Works.

25 * * *

26 §114. Fraud in obtaining assistance; withholding information concerning property,
27 income or beneficiary, or personal circumstances

28 A. No person shall obtain or attempt to obtain assistance from ~~the~~
29 ~~Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works or the Louisiana

1 Department of Health by means of any false statement, misrepresentation, or other
2 fraudulent device. If during the life, or upon the death, of any person who is
3 receiving or has received assistance it is found that the recipient is receiving or has
4 received assistance through misrepresentation, nondisclosure of material facts, or
5 other fraudulent device, the amount of assistance, without interest, shall be
6 recoverable from him or his estate as a debt due the state by court action.

7 B. If at any time during the continuance of public assistance to any person,
8 the recipient thereof, or the husband or wife of the recipient with whom he or she is
9 living, is possessed or becomes possessed of any property or income in excess of the
10 amount declared at the time of application or reinvestigation of his case and in such
11 amount as would affect his needs or right to receive assistance, it shall be the duty
12 of the recipient, or the husband or wife of the recipient, to notify ~~the Department of~~
13 ~~Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works or the Louisiana Department of
14 Health of possession of such property or income, and the department shall, after
15 investigation, either cancel the assistance or alter the amount thereof in accordance
16 with the circumstances, provided, that such investigation shows that such property
17 or income does affect the need of the recipient or his right to receive assistance. If
18 during the life, or upon the death, of any person who is receiving or has received
19 assistance it is found that the recipient or his spouse was possessed of any property
20 or income in excess of the amount reported that would affect his need or right to
21 receive assistance, any assistance paid when the recipient or his spouse was in
22 possession of such undeclared property or income shall be recoverable, without
23 interest, from him or his estate as a debt due the state by court action. The possession
24 of undeclared property by a recipient or his spouse with whom he is living shall be
25 prima facie evidence of its ownership during the time assistance was granted, and the
26 burden to prove otherwise shall be upon the recipient or his legal representative.

27 C.(1) If the personal circumstances of the recipient change at any time during
28 the continuance of assistance, he shall immediately notify ~~the Department of~~
29 ~~Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works or the Louisiana Department of
30 Health of the change. Personal circumstances shall include:

31 * * *

(2) If during the life, or upon the death, of any person who is receiving assistance it is found that the recipient has received or is receiving assistance of a greater amount than he is entitled to receive as a result of his failure to notify the ~~Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works or the Louisiana Department of Health of a change of personal circumstances as set forth in this Subsection, any assistance paid during the time that the recipient was receiving assistance of a greater amount than he was entitled to receive as a result of his failure to notify the department shall be recoverable, with legal interest, from him or his estate as a debt due the state by court action.

D. The federal government shall be entitled to share in any amount recovered under the provisions of this Section; however, the amount recovered by the federal government shall not exceed the amount contributed by the federal government in each case. The amount due the United States shall be promptly paid or credited upon collection to the designated agency of the federal government by the ~~Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works or the Louisiana Department of Health.

E.(1) Persons receiving food stamps or Aid to Families with Dependent Children, or a successor of either program, who have been determined by ~~the Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works or the Louisiana Department of Health in an administrative hearing, or a court of competent jurisdiction after final appeal, to have fraudulently obtained such food stamps or Aid to Families with Dependent Children, or benefits or assistance from a successor of either program, shall be ineligible for further participation in the program in accordance with the following schedule:

* * *

§114.2. Attempting or aiding to obtain assistance fraudulently; penalties

Any person who obtains or attempts to obtain or aids and abets anyone to obtain assistance from the ~~Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works or the Louisiana Department of Health by means of any false statement,

misrepresentation, or other fraudulent device or violates the provisions of R.S. 46:114 shall be guilty of theft as provided by R.S. 14:67.

§114.3. Regional fraud detection units; investigative subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum

A. ~~The Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works shall establish, maintain, and provide for fraud detection functions in order to detect fraud in obtaining public assistance through staff in each region of the state. Each fraud detection unit shall report each incident of public assistance fraud to the fraud detection section of the office of children and family services on a monthly basis by the tenth day of each succeeding month. An annual report of the activities of all fraud detection units within a state fiscal year shall be submitted by the fraud detection section to the Senate and House committees on health and welfare by September first.

B. When the secretary of ~~the Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works or the secretary's designated representative has evidence that any person, business, or other legal entity attempted to obtain or obtained assistance or payment for services or goods from the department by means of any false statement, misrepresentation, or other fraudulent device, the secretary or the designated representative may issue an administrative investigation subpoena for deposition testimony or a subpoena duces tecum to be served upon any person, business, or other legal entity who is believed to have information, material, or physical evidence relative to the alleged or suspected violation, for the purpose of producing, revealing, identifying, or explaining documentary material or other physical evidence. Such deposition or return of subpoena shall take place in the parish in which the person, business, or other legal entity upon whom the subpoena has been served resides or conducts business. The subpoena shall be served by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by any other means authorized by the Code of Civil Procedure or the Code of Criminal Procedure for the service of process. The subpoena shall specify a return date indicating the date by which deposition testimony or information, material, or physical evidence must be received by the department.

* * *

1 §116. Prima facie proof of pleadings

2 Pleadings filed on behalf of ~~the Department of Children and Family Services~~
3 Louisiana Works or the Louisiana Department of Health in actions to recover the
4 value of ineligible public financial assistance payments or benefits shall be
5 accompanied by an itemized statement of the amount of overissuance or
6 overpayment together with the amount to which the recipient was entitled, if any.
7 When accompanied by an affidavit of the assistant secretary of the office
8 administering such payments or benefits to the correctness thereof as to the truth of
9 the facts alleged to the best of the affiant's knowledge and belief, such itemized
10 statement shall be accepted as prima facie proof of the disbursement and receipt of
11 said payments and the amount thereof.

12 * * *

13 §230.1. Legislative intent

14 A. It is the intent of the legislature that families in Louisiana be strong and
15 economically self-reliant so as to minimize their dependence on government benefits
16 for basic needs. To accomplish this goal, it is the intent of this Part that ~~the~~
17 ~~Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works ensures that all cash
18 assistance recipients, with the exception of persons with disabilities or who are
19 incapacitated, are actively and universally engaged in meaningful activities designed
20 to enable their transition from cash assistance to self-reliance. It is the further intent
21 that cash assistance participants demonstrate and are expected to exercise active and
22 diligent personal responsibility in achieving self-reliance through employment and
23 increased workplace literacy. All appropriate state agencies responsible for
24 employment, training, and educating Louisiana's citizens are expected to cooperate
25 in the pursuit of this goal.

26 B. ~~The Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works shall
27 submit written reports on the status of implementation of these provisions to the
28 Performance Review Subcommittee of the Joint Legislative Committee on the
29 Budget in March, 2004 and September, 2004, and thereafter, annually at the same

time as the mid-year performance progress report is submitted as provided in R.S. 39:87.3(A)(2). Such written reports shall include but not be limited to data providing performance measures assessing the success of performance-based agreements, job readiness, workplace literacy, job development services, and such additional data as may be determined by the committee.

* * *

§231. Aid to needy families; definitions

As used in this Subpart, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

* * *

(11) "Department" means ~~the Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works.

* * *

(24) "Secretary" means the secretary of ~~the Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works.

* * *

§231.4. Immunization compliance; exceptions

A. The secretary of ~~the Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works and the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health shall require each recipient or customer of public assistance of the programs described herein or his parent or guardian to present to the appropriate local agency issuing the public assistance sufficient evidence of immunity or immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases according to a schedule promulgated by rule by the office of public health of the Louisiana Department of Health. Sufficient evidence that such an immunization program is in progress may be substituted for proof of immunity or immunization.

* * *

D. ~~The Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works and the Louisiana Department of Health shall promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the provisions of

this Section for programs under the particular department's jurisdiction. The office of public health shall develop and promulgate by rule the immunization schedule required herein.

* * *

§236. Administration of emergency assistance to needy families with children

In order to extend and improve services, aid, and care to needy children and needy families with children in this state, and in order to take full advantage of existing federally funded programs on a matched basis, ~~the Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works shall be the agency of the state of Louisiana to cooperate with the United States and to administer Title IV-A, Sections 403 and 406 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 603 and 606) or any amendments thereto, relating to emergency assistance to needy families with children, and to receive and expend federal moneys for these services.

* * *

§237. Kinship Care Subsidy Program

A. Creation. There is hereby established a Kinship Care Subsidy Program in ~~the office of children and family services of the Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works, for the purpose of assisting eligible kinship caregivers, including grandparents, step-grandparents, or other adult relatives within the fifth degree who have legal custody or guardianship of their minor relatives.

* * *

E. Subsidy amounts. ~~The office of children and family services~~ Louisiana Works shall promulgate rules and regulations to establish the amount of the subsidy to be awarded on behalf of each minor relative.

F. Rules, regulations, and procedures. ~~The office of children and family services~~ Louisiana Works shall promulgate rules and regulations to provide for any other eligibility requirements which are reasonably necessary to administer the Kinship Care Subsidy Program in accordance with this Section and any federal requirements, to promote the safety and well-being of any minor relative for whom subsidies are issued, and to establish procedures for reconsideration of eligibility of applicants no less than annually.

1 G. Administration and funding. The subsidy provided for in this Section shall
2 be administered by ~~the office of children and family services~~ Louisiana Works and
3 funded through the TANF block grant.

4 * * *

5 §352. Definitions

6 As used in this Part, the following definitions apply:

7 (1) "Public assistance" means any of the following:

8 (a) Cash benefits of the Family Independence Temporary Assistance
9 Program administered by ~~the Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana
10 Works.

11 * * *

12 §441. Surviving spouse of public assistance recipients; retention of benefits received
13 during month of death

14 A surviving spouse of a ~~general~~ public assistance recipient is hereby
15 authorized to receive and retain any financial assistance paid by ~~the Department of~~
16 ~~Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works to or for the benefit of ~~said the~~ said
17 recipient during the month of the death of said recipient, whether or not the check
18 covering ~~such the public~~ such the public assistance was actually received prior to the death of the
19 recipient.

20 * * *

21 §443. Exemption of income and resources

22 The secretary of ~~the Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana
23 Works and the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health are hereby
24 authorized to adopt income and resources exemption policies to the extent necessary
25 to conform with the federal Economic Opportunity Act, any social security
26 provision, and any other laws of congress to obtain federal block grant or matching
27 funds for the state's public assistance program. Such income and resources
28 exemption policies shall prevail in the event they conflict with R.S. 46:151, 153, 154,
29 and 233.

§444. Cooperation with administrative agencies relative to interchange of information

The ~~Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works is hereby authorized to provide for interchange of such information necessary in providing for work training experiences as required by Public Law 90-248, as the secretary of the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare, or its successor department, may require for federal matching purposes.

* * *

§447. Revision of standard of need; aid to families with dependent children; general assistance

A. ~~The Louisiana Department of Health and the Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works jointly shall revise the standard of need for the Family Independence Temporary Assistant Program and the general assistance program each year, basing such standard on the Annual Update of the Poverty Income Guidelines published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The standard shall reflect the higher of the southern and national averages. The departments shall cause such revised standard to become effective on January first of each year.

B. Implementation of this provision shall be contingent on the Louisiana Department of Health and ~~the Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works certifying to the commissioner of the division of administration that the revision will not increase the total state dollar expenditure for the two departments.

* * *

§450.1. Electronic authorization and distribution of public assistance benefits and services

~~A. The office of children and family services, Department of Children and Family Services, Louisiana Department of Health and Louisiana Works shall contract for the development and implementation of an electronic issuance system for the authorization and distribution of benefits and services provided by public assistance programs. Such programs shall include but not be limited to issuance of~~

1 benefits and services of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the
2 Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP), and shall require that
3 all recipients who participate in programs for which benefits and services are
4 authorized and distributed through the system shall obtain benefits through such the
5 electronic issuance system, subject only to such the exceptions ~~as shall be~~ necessary
6 for the effective functioning of the program programs.

7 * * *

8 §460.1. Submission of quarterly reports to the legislature

9 ~~The Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works shall
10 submit copies of the federal quarterly ACF-196 and ACF-696 reports to the House
11 and Senate committees on health and welfare, the House Committee on
12 Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Finance at the time these reports are
13 submitted to the federal government. Upon request, the department shall submit
14 copies of any other report the legislature deems necessary.

15 * * *

16 §460.5. Earned income disregards for certain TANF recipients

17 A. In order to promote self-sufficiency, ~~the Department of Children and~~
18 ~~Family Services~~ Louisiana Works shall disregard a recipient's first six months of
19 earnings up to nine hundred dollars of gross earnings per month in determining the
20 amount of his household's benefit under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families,
21 provided that such the recipient is engaged in a work activity which has been
22 approved by the department as part of his work participation requirement under
23 TANF.

24 * * *

25 §460.7. Incentive Award Program; dropout reduction; teen pregnancy reduction

26 A. ~~The Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works in
27 consultation with the Department of Education shall develop and implement a
28 special program, the Incentive Award Program, whereby the governing authority of
29 a parish and a parish school system may receive a financial award for reducing the
30 teen pregnancy rate and dropout rate for the parish.

31 * * *

1 C. Through the Incentive Award Program, the department shall provide a
2 financial award to each of the ten parishes identified in the annual progress report
3 ~~which that~~ have demonstrated the most significant reduction in dropout rates, as
4 defined by rule of the Department of Education, and in teen pregnancy rates as
5 defined by rule of ~~the Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works.
6 The financial award shall be distributed to ~~such the~~ ten parish school systems. These
7 awards may be expended by the parish school system to implement innovative
8 community-based and school-based programs designed to further reduce the dropout
9 rate and the teen pregnancy rate for the parish and for instructional enhancement
10 programs.

11 * * *

12 §460.8. TANF eligibility; teen parent living arrangements; work participation
13 requirements; submission of waiver

14 A.(1)(a) Any recipient of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block
15 Grant (TANF) benefits who is less than eighteen years of age, is not married, and is
16 a custodial parent shall live in an approved adult-supervised living arrangement with
17 his ~~or her~~ child, except when evidence is presented to a caseworker of ~~the~~
18 ~~Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works that the teen parent,
19 or his ~~or her~~ child, has been subjected to emotional or physical abuse.

20 (b)(i) If the caseworker determines that the teen parent, or his ~~or her~~ child,
21 has been subjected to the abuse of an adult with whom they are living in a primary
22 relationship and that under the circumstances the teen, and his ~~or her~~ child, would be
23 safer living outside the present adult-supervised living arrangement, then the teen
24 parent and child shall be allowed to live outside ~~such the~~ adult-supervised living
25 arrangement temporarily.

26 (ii) If the teen parent leaves his ~~or her~~ ~~such the~~ adult-supervised living
27 arrangement, the caseworker shall monitor the teen's case no less frequently than
28 once a month and shall assist the teen parent in locating another approved adult-
29 supervised living arrangement, taking into consideration the needs and concerns of
30 the teen parent and child.

(c) The teen parent shall be allowed to receive TANF benefits on behalf of himself or herself, and his or her child, while temporarily living outside an adult-supervised living arrangement as provided in this Subsection.

* * *

B. The secretary of the ~~Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works may temporarily exempt from the work participation requirements any female who is in a two-parent TANF family who presents sufficient evidence to support a claim that she has been incapable of maintaining a job or regularly reporting to her place of employment because she is a victim of domestic violence and has been forced to move into a shelter or another protective environment outside her home.

* * *

§460.10. Drug testing for certain adult recipients of public assistance; legislative policy; procedures

A. The legislature hereby reaffirms the legitimate government function of promoting the safety and welfare of children and adults. The legislature declares that the best interests of a significant portion of the state's population are served by ensuring that they are free of the physical and mental impairments associated with drug dependence. The legislature further reaffirms its compelling interest in providing safeguards to eliminate the misappropriation of ~~entitlement~~ public assistance benefits. The legislature hereby directs the secretary of the ~~Department of Children and Family Services~~ Louisiana Works, in consultation with the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and the commissioner of administration, to establish a mandatory drug testing program for certain adults in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant Program.

B.(1) ~~The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services~~
Louisiana Works shall cause to be instituted a mandatory drug testing program for
certain adult participants, to be determined by the secretary in consultation with the
secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and the commissioner of
administration, in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant

1 Program. However, no ~~No~~ participant shall be tested if such testing is prohibited by
2 federal law. No sanction shall be imposed on an adult participant if such sanction is
3 prohibited by federal law.

4 (2) The ~~Such~~ testing program shall provide procedural safeguards to ensure
5 the protection of the constitutional rights of the program participants and provide that
6 testing shall be done by state certified laboratories.

7 C.(1) The required drug testing program shall require a participant to
8 complete an education and rehabilitation program upon the initial identification of
9 ~~such~~ the participant as an illegal drug user verified by a positive test result as a
10 prerequisite to continued receipt of benefits. Further, the drug testing program shall
11 provide for the suspension of participation in ~~such entitlement~~ the public assistance
12 program for a participant subsequently identified by a verified positive test result as
13 an illegal drug user; ~~however,~~ However, in no event shall participation in ~~such~~
14 ~~entitlement~~ the public assistance program be suspended while the participant is
15 taking part in the education and rehabilitation program or until an education and
16 rehabilitation program is available to the participant.

17 (2)(a) The secretary of ~~the Department of Children and Family Services~~
18 Louisiana Works, in conjunction with the secretary of the Louisiana Department of
19 Health and the commissioner of administration₂, shall provide a program of education
20 and rehabilitation for participants so identified as illegal drug users.

21 (b) The ~~Such~~ program shall include regulations governing the reentry of a
22 suspended ~~recipient participant~~ participant into the ~~entitlement~~ public assistance program based
23 on subsequent testing results and completion of education and rehabilitation
24 programs.

25 (c) The ~~Such~~ program shall also include the provision of inpatient services
26 for any participant identified as an illegal drug user if it is determined that such
27 inpatient services are necessary for successful rehabilitation.

28 D. The secretary of ~~the Department of Children and Family Services~~
29 Louisiana Works, in consultation with the secretary of the Louisiana Department of
30 Health and the commissioner of administration₂, shall promulgate rules and

1 regulations to implement the provisions of this Section in accordance with the
2 Administrative Procedure Act. Such rules and regulations shall provide that the cost
3 of testing participants for the presence of illegal drugs and the treatment of such
4 participants pursuant to the provisions of this Section shall be borne by the
5 department or departments that grant the applicable public assistance.

6 E. The secretary of Louisiana Works shall prepare a written statistical report
7 on the program and submit the report to the legislature on or before January 1, 1999
8 and annually thereafter.

9 * * *

10 §932. Powers and duties

11 The office shall have the following powers and duties:

12 * * *

13 (12) To administer all federal funds appropriated, allocated, or otherwise
14 made available to the state for services to the elderly, whether by block grant or in
15 any other form, with the exception of funds for programs administered by the
16 Department of Children and Family Services or the Louisiana Department of Health,
17 on August 15, 1995, the Louisiana Department of Health on October 1, 2025, or
18 Louisiana Works on October 1, 2027, and to distribute those funds in accordance
19 with and consistent with R.S. 46:936.

20 * * *

21 §936. Statement of intent

22 A. It is the intention of the legislature that, insofar as is practical and
23 consistent with the efficient administration of state government, programs and
24 services for the elderly population of Louisiana, with the exception of any program
25 administered by the Department of Children and Family Services or the Louisiana
26 Department of Health on August 15, 1995, the Louisiana Department of Health on
27 October 1, 2025, or Louisiana Works on October 1, 2027, shall eventually be
28 consolidated within the office of elderly affairs, to be administered at the local level
29 by the sixty-four parish voluntary councils on aging.

1 B. It is further the intention of the legislature that the ~~Office of Elderly~~
2 ~~Affairs~~ office of elderly affairs administer all federal funds appropriated, allocated,
3 or otherwise made available to the state for services to the elderly, whether by block
4 grant or in any other form, with the exception of funds for programs administered by
5 the Department of Children and Family Services or the Louisiana Department of
6 Health on August 15, 1995, the Louisiana Department of Health on October 1, 2025,
7 or Louisiana Works on October 1, 2027. The office of elderly affairs shall distribute
8 such funds in accordance with appropriate state and federal requirements and
9 consistent with this Section.

10 * * *

11 Section 14. R.S. 46:936 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

12 §936. Statement of intent

13 A. It is the intention of the legislature that, insofar as is practical and
14 consistent with the efficient administration of state government, programs and
15 services for the elderly population of Louisiana, with the exception of any program
16 administered by the Department of Children and Family Services or the Louisiana
17 Department of Health on August 15, 1995, the Louisiana Department of Health on
18 October 1, 2025, or Louisiana Works on October 1, 2027, shall eventually be
19 consolidated within the ~~office of elderly affairs~~ Department of Elderly Affairs, to be
20 administered at the local level by the sixty-four parish voluntary councils on aging.

21 B. It is further the intention of the legislature that the ~~Office~~ Department of
22 Elderly Affairs administer all federal funds appropriated, allocated, or otherwise
23 made available to the state for services to the elderly, whether by block grant or in
24 any other form, with the exception of funds for programs administered by the
25 Department of Children and Family Services or the Louisiana Department of Health
26 on August 15, 1995, the Louisiana Department of Health on October 1, 2025, or
27 Louisiana Works on October 1, 2027. The ~~office of elderly affairs~~ Department of
28 Elderly Affairs shall distribute such funds in accordance with appropriate state and
29 federal requirements and consistent with this Section.

Section 15. R.S. 49:191(1)(f) and 1402(1)(d) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§191. Termination of legislative authority for existence of statutory entities; phase-out period for statutory entities; table of dates

Notwithstanding any termination dates set by any previous Act of the legislature, the statutory entities set forth in this Section shall begin to terminate their operations on July first of each of the following years, and all legislative authority for the existence of any statutory entity, as defined in R.S. 49:190, shall cease as of July first of the following year, which shall be the termination date:

(1) July 1, 2026:

* * *

(f) ~~The Louisiana Workforce Commission~~ Louisiana Works and all statutory entities made a part of the department by law.

* * *

§1402. Definition of terms

As used in this Chapter, the following terms have the meanings ascribed to them in this Section unless otherwise clearly indicated by context:

(1) "Agency" means any of the following state departments:

* * *

(d) ~~Louisiana Workforce Commission~~ Louisiana Works.

* * *

Section 16. R.S. 23:18 and 34 and R.S. 36:308(E) are hereby repealed in their entirety.

Section 17. R.S. 46:52.1(C) through (F), 55, 102, 103, 112, 230.1(C), and 231.14(G)(3) and R.S. 49:1402(1)(a) are hereby repealed in their entirety.

Section 18. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized and requested to change all references in the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 to the Louisiana Workforce Commission, whether referred to as the "Louisiana Workforce Commission" or "commission", to "Louisiana Works" or "department" where appropriate. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby further authorized and requested to change all references to the

1 executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, whether referred to as
2 "executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission", "executive director of the
3 commission", "executive of the department", or "executive director", to "secretary".

4 Section 19. The administrative rules contained in the Louisiana Administrative Code
5 promulgated by the Department of Children and Family Services, or a successor department,
6 which govern or are applicable to the programs and operations transferred from the
7 Department of Children and Family Services, or a successor department, to Louisiana Works
8 by this Act shall continue to be effective, and the office of state register shall change all
9 applicable references to the Department of Children and Family Services, or a successor
10 department, to Louisiana Works and redesignate and renumber, as needed, all applicable
11 provisions as are necessary to maintain continuity in the Louisiana Administrative Code.

12 Section 20. All monies held in the state treasury for the Fraud Detection Fund on
13 the effective date of this Section, shall upon that date, be transferred to the Louisiana
14 Department of Health.

15 Section 21.(A) All Department of Children and Family Services, or a successor
16 department, contracts related to the operation and administration of the programs and
17 activities transferred to Louisiana Works by this Act shall be deemed to have been
18 transferred and assigned to Louisiana Works upon the effective date of this Section without
19 the necessity of contractual amendment, and Louisiana Works shall be solely responsible for
20 all related obligations and liabilities arising on or after that effective date.

21 (B) In order to ensure continuity of services during the transition period, any pending
22 or unfinished business of the programs being transferred over shall be taken over and
23 completed by Louisiana Works with the same power and authorization as that of the
24 Department of Children and Family Services, or a successor department.

25 (C)(1) All employees engaged in the performance of duties relating to the functions
26 of the programs and services transferred from the Department of Children and Family
27 Services, or a successor department, to Louisiana Works are hereby transferred to Louisiana
28 Works to carry out the functions of Louisiana Works and its programs and services and shall
29 continue to perform their duties, subject to applicable state civil service laws, rules, and
30 regulations. Subject to such laws, positions in the unclassified service shall remain in the

1 unclassified service. Upon the transfer of employees to a board, such employees shall
2 immediately have the ability to payroll deduct or direct deposit their payroll earnings in
3 favor of any credit union of which they were members prior to the transfer.

4 (2) The Department of State Civil Service shall assist the Department of Children
5 and Family Services, or a successor department, and Louisiana Works in all human resource
6 activities deemed necessary to make such a transfer. All human resource activities shall
7 include but are not limited to the transfer of personnel files and other related confidential
8 documents, position descriptions, retirement benefits, and related benefits, including but not
9 limited to those offered by the Office of Group Benefits.

10 (D) In order to ensure continuity of services, Louisiana Works shall provide
11 adequate funding from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to
12 the Department of Children and Family Services, or a successor department, to run the child
13 protection and child welfare services as set forth in an interagency agreement. The amount
14 and schedule of funding transfers shall be determined based on the agreement between the
15 secretaries of Louisiana Works and the Department of Children and Family Services, or a
16 successor department. Both departments agree to work collaboratively to ensure that
17 adequate financial resources are provided annually. In the event that the secretaries are
18 unable to reach an agreement regarding the funding provisions, either department may
19 request a resolution by the commissioner of administration. The commissioner shall
20 convene a meeting between the secretaries and make a final determination on the proposed
21 allocation of funding to be included in the annual proposed operating budget.

22 Section 22.(A) The provisions of R.S. 23:73(E)(2) as amended and reenacted in
23 Section 8 of this Act shall supersede the provisions of R.S. 23:73(E)(2) as amended and
24 reenacted in Section 1 of Act No. 384 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature when
25 Section 1 of Act No. 384 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature becomes effective.

26 (B) The provisions of R.S. 46:936 as amended and reenacted in Section 14 of this Act
27 shall supersede the provisions of R.S. 46:936 as amended and reenacted in Section 5 of Act
28 No. 384 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature when Section 5 of Act No. 384 of
29 the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature becomes effective.

1 Section 23.(A) The workforce development programs administered by the
2 Department of Children and Family Services shall be administered by Louisiana Works, or
3 its successors. The workforce program includes those consolidated under Skills Employment
4 and Training, or "SET for Success", or successor programs, the Child Support Enforcement
5 Employment and Training Program, or a successor program, and the Strategies to Empower
6 People (STEP) Program, or a successor program.

7 (B) All employees of the Department of Children and Family Services, or a
8 successor department, whose duties involve the administration or implementation of the
9 programs provided for in Subsection A of this Section shall be transferred to Louisiana
10 Works, or its successors, in accordance with applicable civil service laws and regulations.

11 (C) The Department of Children and Family Services, or a successor department,
12 and Louisiana Works, or its successors, shall execute an interagency agreement to ensure the
13 continued funding of these programs in a manner consistent with each program's current
14 funding sources and mechanisms. The agreement shall provide for the allocation of
15 resources, personnel, and administrative support necessary to maintain uninterrupted
16 program operations. Louisiana Works, or its successors, shall provide a monthly report and
17 invoice to the Department of Children and Family Services, or a successor department,
18 which shall be paid within thirty days of receipt, and provided in a format prescribed by the
19 Department of Children and Family Services, or a successor department, for an interagency
20 transfer of funding to Louisiana Works, or its successors.

21 (D) The secretaries of the Department of Children and Family Services, or a
22 successor department, and Louisiana Works, or its successor, or their respective designees,
23 shall take all actions necessary to implement the provisions of this Section, including
24 transferring and assigning contracts and promulgating rules and regulations in accordance
25 with the Administrative Procedure Act.

26 Section 24.(A) The Disability Determination Services (DDS) program administered
27 by the Department of Children and Family Services shall be transferred to and administered
28 by the Louisiana Department of Health, or its successors.

29 (B) All employees of the Department of Children and Family Services, or a
30 successor department, whose duties involve the administration or implementation of the
31 DDS program shall be transferred to the Louisiana Department of Health, or its successors,
32 in accordance with applicable civil service laws and regulations.

1 (C) Upon transfer, the Louisiana Department of Health, or its successors, shall be
2 the direct recipient of all federal funding for the DDS program from the Social Security
3 Administration.

4 Section 25. To further improve the financial situation of the state and to more
5 efficiently and effectively provide services to the citizens of this state, Louisiana Works shall
6 reduce at least forty employees from its July 1, 2024, employee count through natural
7 attrition no later than July 1, 2027.

8 Section 26.(A) The administrative rules contained in the Louisiana Administrative
9 Code promulgated by the Department of Children and Family Services which govern or are
10 applicable to the programs and operations transferred from the Department of Children and
11 Family Services to the Louisiana Department of Health by this Act shall continue to be
12 effective, and the office of state register shall change all applicable references to the
13 Department of Children and Family Services to the Louisiana Department of Health and
14 redesignate and renumber, as needed, all applicable provisions as are necessary to maintain
15 continuity in the Louisiana Administrative Code.

16 (B) All Department of Children and Family Services contracts related to the
17 operation and administration of the programs and activities transferred to the Louisiana
18 Department of Health by this Act shall be deemed to have been transferred and assigned to
19 the Louisiana Department of Health upon the effective date of this Section without the
20 necessity of contractual amendment, and the Louisiana Department of Health shall be solely
21 responsible for all related obligations and liabilities arising on or after that effective date.

22 (C) In order to ensure continuity of services during the transition period, any pending
23 or unfinished business of the programs being transferred over shall be taken over and
24 completed by the Louisiana Department of Health with the same power and authorization
25 as that of the Department of Children and Family Services.

26 (D)(1) All employees engaged in the performance of duties relating to the functions
27 of the programs and services transferred from the Department of Children and Family
28 Services to the Louisiana Department of Health are hereby transferred to the Louisiana
29 Department of Health to carry out the functions of the Louisiana Department of Health and
30 its programs and services and shall continue to perform their duties, subject to applicable
31 state civil service laws, rules, and regulations. Subject to such laws, positions in the

1 unclassified service shall remain in the unclassified service. Upon the transfer of employees
 2 to the Louisiana Department of Health, such employees shall immediately have the ability
 3 to payroll deduct or direct deposit their payroll earnings in favor of any credit union of which
 4 they were members prior to the transfer.

5 (2) The Department of State Civil Service shall assist the Department of Children and
 6 Family Services and the Louisiana Department of Health in all human resource activities
 7 deemed necessary to make such a transfer. All human resource activities shall include, but
 8 are not limited to the transfer of personnel files and other related confidential documents,
 9 position descriptions, retirement benefits, and related benefits, including but not limited to
 10 those offered by the Office of Group Benefits.

11 (E) The commissioner of administration is hereby authorized and directed to make
 12 necessary adjustments to appropriations for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 to conform with the
 13 provisions of this Act. Adjustments shall be through the notification of appropriation
 14 process or through approval of mid-year adjustments.

15 Section 27.(A) Sections 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 18, 20, and 23 through 26 of
 16 this Act shall become effective on October 1, 2025.

17 (B) The provisions of Sections 8, 14, and 22 of this Act shall become effective when
 18 Act No. 384 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature becomes effective.

19 (C) Sections 3, 5, 11, 13, 17, 19, and 21 of this Act shall become effective October
 20 1, 2027.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____