DIGEST

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Williams HB No. 194

Abstract: Requires the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to report to the House and Senate health and welfare committees on educational services provided within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Proposed law provides legislative findings regarding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is still commonly known as "food stamps"; and the SNAP Education program, which provides nutrition education services to low-income families receiving SNAP benefits.

Proposed law provides that in addition to any SNAP Education services conducted by contractors of DCFS, the department shall provide printed nutrition education resource materials directly to the heads of all SNAP beneficiary households at the following intervals:

(1) At the first issuance of a SNAP electronic benefits transfer card subsequent to the initial determination of eligibility.

(2) In the first correspondence from the department subsequent to a redetermination of eligibility.

(3) Any interval which the department deems advantageous and feasible.

Proposed law provides that DCFS may develop or utilize materials at its discretion in order to satisfy the requirement of proposed law that the agency provide printed nutrition education resource materials to the heads of SNAP beneficiary households.

Proposed law requires DCFS to submit a report on the SNAP Education program to the House and Senate health and welfare committees by March 1 annually, which shall include but not be limited to the following items:

(1) Analysis and commentary on major health challenges faced by low-income La. families.

(2) Data on SNAP Education participants, including a description of the ideal target population, actual number of participants served, geographic distribution of participants, and participant demographics.

(3) A description of program operations, including details on selection of participants,

service delivery, and activities conducted by all SNAP Education program contractors and subcontractors.

(4) Analysis of program outcomes and other significant impacts to SNAP Education service recipients.

(5) Public policy recommendations for enhancing the SNAP Education program and for supporting better health and nutrition generally among low-income families of this state.

(Adds R.S. 46:236.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill.

1. Changed language in two Paragraphs of the legislative findings Subsection.

2. Added a requirement that in addition to any SNAP Education services conducted by contractors of DCFS, the department also provide printed nutrition education resource materials directly to the heads of all SNAP beneficiary households at the following intervals:

   (1) At the first issuance of a SNAP electronic benefits transfer card subsequent to the initial determination of eligibility.

   (2) In the first correspondence from the department subsequent to a redetermination of eligibility.

   (3) Any interval which the department deems advantageous and feasible.

3. Deleted provision that the report on SNAP Education required by proposed law address knowledge gain and behavior change among program participants.

4. Made technical change.