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## DIGEST

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Simon

HB No. 156

**Abstract:** Provides for requirements of educational services within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Present law provides legislative findings relative to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP - the program formerly known as "food stamps"); and to the importance of the nutrition education program known as SNAP Education.

Proposed law adds to legislative findings the statement that a nurturing family affords a child his best opportunity to enjoy lifelong health and well-being; and that any program which promotes better health for children must encourage family strengthening and greater parental involvement in the lives of their children if the program is to fulfill its purpose.

Present law requires the SNAP Education program to utilize the Core Nutrition Messages, or any successor resources, developed by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service. Proposed law retains present law and adds a requirement that the program coordinate its outreach and educational efforts to the greatest possible extent with those of the state's Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program.

Present law requires that on or before March 1, the Dept. of Children and Family Services shall submit to the legislative committees on health and welfare a report on the SNAP Education program which includes but is not 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.

Proposed law retains present law and adds to the required items in the report a description of any partnership with the WIC Program and efforts undertaken in collaboration with that program.

(Amends R.S. 46:236.1(C) and (D)(4) and (5); Adds R.S. 46:236.1(A)(7) and (D)(6))