SLS 14RS-156

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20

BY SENATORS HEITMEIER AND DORSEY-COLOMB

HEALTH/HOSPITALS DEPT. Directs Department of Health and Hospitals to submit a state plan amendment to the federal government that will permit WIC cash value vouchers to be used at farmers' markets.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To direct the Department of Health and Hospitals to submit a state plan amendment to the
3	United States Department of Agriculture for the Special Supplemental Nutrition
4	Program for Women, Infants, and Children, popularly known as "WIC", to provide
5	for the use of WIC cash value vouchers at farmers' markets.
6	WHEREAS, through the years of the WIC program, Congress has made numerous
7	attempts to ensure that the healthiest options are available for purchase by those eligible to
8	receive WIC benefits; and
9	WHEREAS, as large supermarkets with substantial produce departments continue
10	to be unavailable to substantial numbers of those receiving WIC benefits, farmers' markets
11	have expanded in many of these areas in order to bring more nutritious options to WIC
12	beneficiaries; and
13	WHEREAS, as of 2012, more than twenty states were offering the option of spending
14	WIC vouchers at farmers' markets operating within those states; and
15	WHEREAS, direct marketing of farm products through farmers' markets continues
16	to be an important sales outlet for agricultural producers nationwide and Louisiana continues
17	to expand access to farmers' markets throughout the state; and
18	WHEREAS, while these markets have continued to grow in popularity primarily due

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- to the growing consumer interest in obtaining fresh products directly from the farm, it
 follows logically that WIC participants would have the same interest in the availability of
- 3 fresh food products direct from the farm.
- THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the Department of Health and Hospitals to submit a state plan amendment to the United States Department of Agriculture for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children to provide for the use of WIC cash value vouchers at
- 8 farmers' markets.
- 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
- 10 secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

The original instrument was prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Linda Nugent.

DIGEST

Heitmeier

SCR No. 20

Directs DHH to submit a state plan amendment to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture WIC program to provide for the use of WIC cash value vouchers at farmers' markets.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

<u>Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to</u> <u>the original bill</u>

1. Directs DHH to submit a state plan amendment to the United States Department of Agriculture, instead of Medicaid, to permit the use of WIC cash value vouchers at farmers' markets.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Deleted references to the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.