HLS 17RS-829 ORIGINAL

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 177

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BY REPRESENTATIVE MORENO

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

SNAP/FOOD STAMPS: Eliminates restrictions on SNAP benefits eligibility for persons with prior drug convictions

AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 46:233.2, relative to eligibility for benefits of certain public 3 assistance programs; to provide relative to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance 4 Program eligibility; to provide for eligibility for such program of persons convicted 5 of certain offenses; and to provide for related matters. 6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana: 7 Section 1. R.S. 46:233.2 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows: 8 §233.2. Period of ineligibility for assistance cash benefits for individuals convicted 9 of certain felonies 10 Except as prohibited by federal law, an individual convicted under federal or 11 state law of any offense which is classified as a felony by the law of the jurisdiction 12 involved and which has as an element the possession, use, or distribution of a 13 controlled substance, as defined in the federal Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. 14 802(6), shall be ineligible from receiving cash benefits under a state program funded 15 under Part A of Title IV of the Social Security Act or benefits under the food stamp 16 program as defined in Section 3(h) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 or any state 17 program carried out under the Food Stamp Act of 1977 for a one-year period 18 commencing on the date of conviction if an individual is not incarcerated, or from

the date of release from incarceration if the individual is incarcerated.

## **DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 177 Original

2017 Regular Session

Moreno

**Abstract:** Eliminates restrictions on eligibility for benefits of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as "food stamps") for people with prior drug convictions.

<u>Present law</u> provides that individuals who have been convicted of any felony offense involving the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance shall be ineligible for benefits of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for one of the following periods, as applicable:

- (1) A one-year period commencing on the date of conviction if the person is not incarcerated.
- (2) A period of one year from the date of release from incarceration if the person is incarcerated.

Proposed law repeals present law.

(Amends R.S. 46:233.2)