

Regular Session, 2011
HOUSE BILL NO. 194

ACT No. 258

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS

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

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Subpart A-1 of Part II of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes
3 of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 46:236.1, relative to the Supplemental Nutrition
4 Assistance Program; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for nutrition
5 education; to establish certain reporting requirements for the Department of Children
6 and Family Services; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Subpart A-1 of Part II of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised
9 Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 46:236.1, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 SUBPART A-1. NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

11 §236.1. Legislative findings; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
12 educational component; reporting requirements

13 A. The legislature finds and declares the following:

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

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

22 (3) By federal policy, SNAP benefits may be used only for the purchase of
23 nonalcoholic beverages and food which is not hot at the point of sale and may not be
24 used to purchase any nonfood items.

1 (4) The population of Louisiana has historically encompassed one of the
2 highest proportions of SNAP recipients in the nation.

3 (5) Federal regulations allow states to administer educational services within
4 the SNAP program. Such services are known as SNAP Education, and are designed
5 to teach food budgeting, proper nutrition, and healthy food choices to SNAP
6 recipients.

7 (6) It is the public policy of this state to support basic health, human welfare,
8 education, and self-sufficiency among its most vulnerable citizens. Effective
9 educational efforts, including nutrition education, are necessary for this state to
10 promote better health and break its historic cycle of generational poverty.

11 B. In addition to any SNAP Education services conducted by contractors of
12 the department, the department shall provide printed nutrition education resource
13 materials directly to the heads of all SNAP beneficiary households. The department
14 may develop or utilize materials at its discretion in order to satisfy the provisions of
15 this Subsection, provided that such materials include the Core Nutrition Messages,
16 or any successor resources, developed by FNS. The department shall provide such
17 materials to every head of a SNAP beneficiary household at the following intervals:

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

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

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

23 C. The SNAP Education program of this state and all subcontractors and
24 affiliates of such program shall utilize the Core Nutrition Messages, or any successor
25 resources, developed by FNS.

26 D. On or before March first annually, the department shall submit to the
27 House Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Health and
28 Welfare a comprehensive report on the SNAP Education program. The report shall
29 include but not be limited to the following items:

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

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

6 (3) A description of program operations, including details on selection of
7 participants, service delivery, and activities conducted by all SNAP Education
8 program contractors and subcontractors.

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

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____