

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 248

BY REPRESENTATIVE EDMONDS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the legislative auditor to conduct an efficiency audit of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program inclusive of the employment and training component of the program.

WHEREAS, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a federally funded program that provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budgets of needy families so they can purchase healthy food and move toward self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, the federal agency that administers SNAP, granted to Louisiana and other states additional flexibility to distribute SNAP benefits; and

WHEREAS, previous SNAP audit reports released in 2014 and 2018 identified both positive and negative administrative practices, including erroneous distributions made by the Department of Children and Family Services, the agency that administers SNAP at the state level in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the employment and training component of SNAP, known commonly as SNAP E&T, is designed to help SNAP participants gain skills, training, or work experience to increase their ability to obtain regular employment that leads to economic self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, individual program performance metrics are needed to ensure the efficient allocation of taxpayer funds in the pursuit of the SNAP E&T goals of improving self-sufficiency among SNAP beneficiaries.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the legislative auditor to conduct an

efficiency audit of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, inclusive of the employment and training component of the program, as a part of its next performance audit of the program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the audit shall include a pre- and post-pandemic analysis of the population of total eligible SNAP recipients compared to the number of actual beneficiaries, the number of ineligible recipients of benefits, and the value of such benefits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the audit of the SNAP E&T program shall include an analysis of each individual employment and training program which has received state or federal funding under the SNAP E&T program plan in the past five years, with an emphasis on pre-and post pandemic changes and outcomes. This analysis should include, to the extent possible, the average pre- and post-program participant earnings and employment status, the number of program participants in comparison to the number of eligible participants in each plan year of the current four-year state plan, the average per-participant cost per funded program, and the number of training recipients no longer residing in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative auditor shall complete the audit called for in this Resolution no later than March 1, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the legislative auditor and the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES