

2018 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 455

BY SENATOR BARROW

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT. Moves families from poverty to empowerment. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Chapter 5 of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised
3 of R.S. 51:1055 through 1059, relative to empowerment of families in poverty; to
4 provide for a state strategic plan; the provide duties and functions of the secretary of
5 each state department; to provide criteria to be considered; to provide for reports; and
6 to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Chapter 5 of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
9 comprised of R.S. 51:1055 through 1059, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 **CHAPTER 5. MOVING FAMILIES FROM POVERTY TO EMPOWERMENT**

11 **§1055. Short title**

12 **This Chapter shall be named and may be cited as the "Moving Families**
13 **from Poverty to Empowerment Act".**

14 **§1056. Legislative findings; declaration of purpose**

15 **A.(1) The legislature finds that poverty is one of the greatest enemies of**
16 **human dignity and the family unit and undermines the general welfare of the**
17 **people of Louisiana and significant portions of the state suffers from the affects**

1 of poverty.

2 (2) The legislature further finds that appropriate housing, affordable
3 public transportation, adequate wage to provide a living, equality in access to
4 justice, and public assistance programs which permit a gradual decrease in
5 benefits while the individual is becoming economically independent will reduce
6 poverty and empower and increase the quality of life for families in poverty.

7 (3) The legislature further finds that the particular attention of state
8 government could benefit families in poverty with a coordinated and
9 well-managed plan provided by the departments of the state dedicated to
10 empowering these families.

11 (4) It is declared that the effective administration and coordination of
12 efforts to families in poverty is the responsibility of state government.

13 B. In order to meet these needs, the legislature hereby authorizes the
14 creation of the Moving Families from Poverty to Empowerment Strategic Plan,
15 hereinafter referred to in this Chapter as the "plan".

16 §1057. Moving Families from Poverty to Empowerment Strategic Plan

17 A. The plan shall be a coordinated attempt to address the needs of the
18 state's economically disadvantaged families. The plan shall be available and
19 applicable throughout the state.

20 B. The secretary of each state department shall coordinate any and all
21 assistance that may be obtained through the department with other state
22 departments.

23 §1058. Criteria

24 In furtherance of the provisions of this Chapter, the secretary of each
25 state department shall give consideration to the following areas:

26 (1) Wages being paid for work being done.

27 (2) Government assistance that gradually decreases as recipients become
28 more self sufficient.

29 (3) Equality in access to justice.

(4) Housing.**(5) Public transportation.****§1059. Duties of the departments; reports**

The secretary of each state department shall submit an annual report to the governor and to each member of the legislature detailing actions taken by the department in furtherance of the provisions of this Chapter.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

DIGEST

SB 455 Original

2018 Regular Session

Barrow

Proposed law enacts the "Moving Families from Poverty to Empowerment Act".

Provides legislative findings.

Authorizes the Moving Families from Poverty to Empowerment Strategic Plan.

Provides that the plan shall be a coordinated attempt to address the needs of the state's economically disadvantaged families which shall be available and applicable throughout the state.

Requires the secretary of each state department coordinate any and all assistance that may be obtained through state or federal anti-poverty, economic development stimulus, or other programs to implement the plan.

Requires that for the purposes of the plan, the secretary of each state department shall give consideration to the following areas:

- (1) Wages being paid for work being done.
- (2) Government assistance that gradually decreases as recipients become more self sufficient.
- (3) Equality in access to justice.
- (4) Housing.
- (5) Public transportation.

Requires that the secretary of each state department submit an annual report to the governor

and each member of the legislature detailing actions taken by the department in furtherance of proposed law.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 51:1055-1059)