

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20

BY SENATORS HEITMEIER AND DORSEY-COLOMB AND REPRESENTATIVE
BARROW

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To 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, popularly known as "WIC", to provide for the use of WIC cash value vouchers at farmers' markets.

WHEREAS, through the years of the WIC program, Congress has made numerous attempts to ensure that the healthiest options are available for purchase by those eligible to receive WIC benefits; and

WHEREAS, as large supermarkets with substantial produce departments continue to be unavailable to substantial numbers of those receiving WIC benefits, farmers' markets have expanded in many of these areas in order to bring more nutritious options to WIC beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, as of 2012, more than twenty states were offering the option of spending WIC vouchers at farmers' markets operating within those states; and

WHEREAS, direct marketing of farm products through farmers' markets continues to be an important sales outlet for agricultural producers nationwide and Louisiana continues to expand access to farmers' markets throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, while these markets have continued to grow in popularity primarily due 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 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 farmers' markets.

SCR NO. 20

ENROLLED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES