

2015 -- H 5104

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES - PUBLIC ASSISTANCE-FRAUD PREVENTION

Introduced By: Representatives Messier, McLaughlin, Serpa, Fellela, and Marshall

Date Introduced: January 15, 2015

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 40-6 of the General Laws entitled "Public Assistance Act" is  
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **40-6-8.1. Electronic benefit transfer cards for supplemental nutrition assistance**  
4 **program (SNAP). -- The department shall:**

5 (1) Require the use of photo identification on the front of each newly issued and reissued  
6 electronic benefit transfer card for each cardholder who is over the age of eighteen (18); provided,  
7 however, that the department shall promulgate regulations to ensure that all authorized users and  
8 members of the household are able to use an electronic benefit transfer card pursuant to 7 U.S.C.  
9 2016(h)(9); provided further, that the department shall not require the use of photo identification  
10 for individuals who are sixty (60) years of age or over, blind, disabled or victims of domestic  
11 violence; and provided, further, that in developing regulations for authorized users, the  
12 department shall consult with businesses or vendor associations whose members accept electronic  
13 benefit transfer cards as a form of payment including, but not limited to, the Rhode Island Food  
14 Dealers Association and the New England Convenience Store Association; and

15 (2) Include the fraud hotline number and department website on all newly issued  
16 electronic benefit transfer cards; and

17 (3) Require that any retailer that accepts electronic benefit transfer cards to post the fraud  
18 hotline number provided by the department; and

19 (4) List on each application and renewal forms items prohibited from purchase with

1 electronic benefit transfer cards; and

2 (5) Send a notice to any benefit recipient who requests more than three (3) replacement  
3 electronic benefit transfer cards in a calendar year and monitor future requests for replacement  
4 cards; provided that the notice shall state that the department has noted an unusual number of  
5 requests for replacement electronic benefits cards and will be monitoring all future requests for  
6 replacement cards.

7 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on September 1, 2015.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES - PUBLIC ASSISTANCE-FRAUD PREVENTION

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1           This act would require the department of human services to issue electronic benefit  
2 transfer cards containing a photograph of the cardholder if they are over the age of eighteen (18),  
3 under the age of sixty (60) and not blind, disabled or victims of domestic violence. This act would  
4 also require the department to implement certain procedures designed to reduce fraud and abuse.

5           This act would take effect on September 1, 2015.

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