

As Introduced

132nd General Assembly

Regular Session

2017-2018

S. B. No. 80

Senator Huffman

Cosponsors: Senators Terhar, Eklund, Uecker, Coley

A BILL

To amend sections 5101.33 and 5101.542 and to enact 1
section 5101.331 of the Revised Code to 2
establish requirements for electronic benefit 3
transfer cards issued under the Supplemental 4
Nutrition Assistance Program. 5

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 5101.33 and 5101.542 be amended 6
and section 5101.331 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as 7
follows: 8

Sec. 5101.33. (A) As used in this section, "benefits" 9
means any of the following: 10

(1) Cash assistance paid under Chapter 5107. or 5115. of 11
the Revised Code; 12

(2) Supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits 13
provided under section 5101.54 of the Revised Code; 14

(3) Any other program administered by the department of 15
job and family services under which assistance is provided or 16
service rendered; 17

(4) Any other program, service, or assistance administered 18
by a person or government entity that the department determines 19
may be delivered through the medium of electronic benefit 20
transfer. 21

(B) ~~The~~ Subject to section 5101.331 of the Revised Code, 22
the department of job and family services may make any payment 23
or delivery of benefits to eligible individuals through the 24
medium of electronic benefit transfer by doing all of the 25
following: 26

(1) Contracting with an agent to supply debit cards to the 27
department of job and family services for use by such 28
individuals in accessing their benefits and to credit such cards 29
electronically with the amounts specified by the director of job 30
and family services pursuant to law; 31

(2) Informing such individuals about the use of the 32
electronic benefit transfer system and furnishing them with 33
debit cards and information that will enable them to access 34
their benefits through the system; 35

(3) Arranging with specific financial institutions or 36
vendors, county departments of job and family services, or 37
persons or government entities for individuals to have their 38
cards credited electronically with the proper amounts at their 39
facilities; 40

(4) Periodically preparing vouchers for the payment of 41
such benefits by electronic benefit transfer; 42

(5) Satisfying any applicable requirements of federal and 43
state law. 44

(C) The department may enter into a written agreement with 45
any person or government entity to provide benefits administered 46

by that person or entity through the medium of electronic benefit transfer. A written agreement may require the person or government entity to pay to the department either or both of the following:

(1) A charge that reimburses the department for all costs the department incurs in having the benefits administered by the person or entity provided through the electronic benefit transfer system;

(2) A fee for having the benefits provided through the electronic benefit transfer system.

(D) The department may designate which counties will participate in the medium of electronic benefit transfer, specify the date a designated county will begin participation, and specify which benefits will be provided through the medium of electronic benefit transfer in a designated county.

(E) The department may adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code for the efficient administration of this section and section 5101.331 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 5101.331. (A) Except as otherwise provided in this section, each debit card used to access supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits shall include both of the following:

(1) On the front of the card, a color photograph of at least one adult member of the household for which the debit card is issued;

(2) On the back of the card, a telephone number that can be called to report suspected fraud under the supplemental nutrition assistance program and the address of a web site where suspected fraud can be reported.

(B) Subject to division (C) of this section, both of the 76
following apply: 77

(1) All new debit cards issued on or after the date that 78
is six months after the effective date of this section shall 79
meet the requirements of division (A) of this section. 80

(2) Not later than twelve months after the effective date 81
of this section, each debit card issued before the date that is 82
six months after the effective date of this section shall be 83
replaced with a debit card that meets the requirements of 84
division (A) of this section if the household for which the 85
debit card was issued continues to participate in the 86
supplemental nutrition assistance program. 87

(C) The requirement of division (A) (1) of this section 88
does not apply to a debit card issued for a household to which 89
either of the following applies: 90

(1) The household does not include any adult members. 91

(2) Each of the adult members of the household is sixty 92
years of age or older; is blind, disabled, or a victim of 93
domestic violence; or has religious objections to being 94
photographed. 95

Sec. 5101.542. Immediately following a county department 96
of job and family services' certification that a household 97
determined under division (B) of section 5101.54 of the Revised 98
Code to be in immediate need of nutrition assistance is eligible 99
for the supplemental nutrition assistance program, the 100
department of job and family services shall provide for the 101
household to be sent by regular United States mail an electronic 102
benefit transfer card containing the amount of benefits the 103
household is eligible to receive under the program. The card 104

shall be sent to the member of the household in whose name 105
application for the supplemental nutrition assistance program 106
was made or that member's authorized representative. Section 107
5101.331 of the Revised Code applies to the card. 108

Section 2. That existing sections 5101.33 and 5101.542 of 109
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 110