

**As Re-Referred by the House Rules and Reference Committee**

**136th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2025-2026**

**Am. H. B. No. 163**

**Representatives Rader, Deeter**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Fischer, Williams, Lett, Glassburn, McNally, Brennan, Synenberg, White, E., Sigrist, Somani, Brewer, Russo, Miller, J., Thomas, D., Robinson, Grim, Brent, Troy, Cockley, Piccolantonio, Miller, K., Thomas, C., Denson, Upchurch, Abdullahi**

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To amend sections 5101.54 and 5101.542 and to enact  
section 5101.5411 of the Revised Code to require  
Ohio's SNAP program to begin using chip-enabled  
EBT cards, to name this act the Enhanced  
Cybersecurity for SNAP Act of 2026, and to make  
an appropriation.

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

**Section 1.** That sections 5101.54 and 5101.542 be amended  
and section 5101.5411 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as  
follows:

**Sec. 5101.54.** (A) The director of job and family services  
shall administer the supplemental nutrition assistance program  
in accordance with the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.  
2011 et seq.). The department of job and family services may:

(1) Prepare and submit to the secretary of the United  
States department of agriculture a plan for the administration  
of the supplemental nutrition assistance program;

(2) Prescribe forms for applications, certificates,

reports, records, and accounts of county departments of job and 18  
family services, and other matters; 19

(3) Require such reports and information from each county 20  
department of job and family services as may be necessary and 21  
advisable; 22

(4) Administer and expend any sums appropriated by the 23  
general assembly for the purposes of the supplemental nutrition 24  
assistance program and all sums paid to the state by the United 25  
States as authorized by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008; 26

(5) Conduct such investigations as are necessary; 27

(6) Enter into interagency agreements and cooperate with 28  
investigations conducted by the department of public safety, 29  
including providing information for investigative purposes, 30  
exchanging property and records, passing through federal 31  
financial participation, modifying any agreements with the 32  
United States department of agriculture, providing for the 33  
supply, security, and accounting of supplemental nutrition 34  
assistance program benefits for investigative purposes, and 35  
meeting any other requirements necessary for the detection and 36  
deterrence of illegal activities in the supplemental nutrition 37  
assistance program; 38

(7) Adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the 39  
Revised Code governing employment and training requirements of 40  
recipients of supplemental nutrition assistance program 41  
benefits, including rules specifying which recipients are 42  
subject to the requirements and establishing sanctions for 43  
failure to satisfy the requirements. The rules shall be 44  
consistent with 7 U.S.C. 2015, including its work and employment 45  
and training requirements, and, to the extent practicable, shall 46

provide for the recipients to participate in work activities, 47  
developmental activities, and alternative work activities 48  
described in sections 5107.40 to 5107.69 of the Revised Code 49  
that are comparable to programs authorized by 7 U.S.C. 2015(d) 50  
(4). The rules may reference rules adopted under section 5107.05 51  
of the Revised Code governing work activities, developmental 52  
activities, and alternative work activities described in 53  
sections 5107.40 to 5107.69 of the Revised Code. 54

(8) Adopt rules in accordance with section 111.15 of the 55  
Revised Code that are consistent with the Food and Nutrition Act 56  
of 2008, the regulations adopted thereunder, and this section 57  
governing the following: 58

(a) Eligibility requirements for the supplemental 59  
nutrition assistance program; 60

(b) Sanctions for failure to comply with eligibility 61  
requirements; 62

(c) Allotment of supplemental nutrition assistance program 63  
benefits; 64

(d) To the extent permitted under federal statutes and 65  
regulations, a system under which some or all recipients of 66  
supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits subject to 67  
employment and training requirements established by rules 68  
adopted under division (A) (7) of this section receive the 69  
benefits after satisfying the requirements; 70

(e) Administration of the program by county departments of 71  
job and family services; 72

(f) Other requirements necessary for the efficient 73  
administration of the program. 74

(9) Submit a plan to the United States secretary of 75  
agriculture for the department of job and family services to 76  
operate a simplified supplemental nutrition assistance program 77  
pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2035 under which requirements governing the 78  
Ohio works first program established under Chapter 5107. of the 79  
Revised Code also govern the supplemental nutrition assistance 80  
program in the case of households receiving supplemental 81  
nutrition assistance program benefits and participating in Ohio 82  
works first. 83

(10) Collect information on suspicious electronic benefit 84  
transfer card transactions and provide the information to each 85  
impacted county department for analysis and investigation. Such 86  
information shall include transactions of even dollar amounts, 87  
full monthly benefit amounts, multiple same-day transactions, 88  
out-of-state transactions, and any other suspicious trends. 89

(11) Not later than one year after the effective date of 90  
this amendment, adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of 91  
the Revised Code concerning cybersecurity and digital service 92  
related to electronic benefit transfer cards and mobile payments 93  
under the supplemental nutrition assistance program. At a 94  
minimum, rules adopted under division (A) (11) of this section 95  
shall ensure that cybersecurity measures for electronic benefit 96  
transfer cards and mobile payments meet security safeguards that 97  
are used in the private sector and required by federal agencies 98  
for credit, debit, and other payment cards and mobile payments. 99  
The director shall review rules adopted pursuant to division (A) 100  
(11) of this section every five years and update them as 101  
necessary. 102

(B) A household that is entitled to receive supplemental 103  
nutrition assistance program benefits and that is determined to 104

be in immediate need of nutrition assistance shall receive 105  
certification of eligibility for program benefits, pending 106  
verification, within twenty-four hours, or, if mitigating 107  
circumstances occur, within seventy-two hours, after 108  
application, if: 109

(1) The results of the application interview indicate that 110  
the household will be eligible upon full verification; 111

(2) Information sufficient to confirm the statements in 112  
the application has been obtained from at least one additional 113  
source, not a member of the applicant's household. Such 114  
information shall be recorded in the case file and shall 115  
include: 116

(a) The name of the person who provided the name of the 117  
information source; 118

(b) The name and address of the information source; 119

(c) A summary of the information obtained. 120

The period of temporary eligibility shall not exceed one 121  
month from the date of certification of temporary eligibility. 122  
If eligibility is established by full verification, benefits 123  
shall continue without interruption as long as eligibility 124  
continues. 125

There is no limit on the number of times a household may 126  
receive expedited certification of eligibility under this 127  
division as long as before each expedited certification all of 128  
the information identified in division (F)(1) of this section 129  
was verified for the household at the last expedited 130  
certification or the household's eligibility was certified under 131  
normal processing standards since the last expedited 132  
certification. 133

At the time of application, the county department of job and family services shall provide to a household described in this division a list of community assistance programs that provide emergency food.

(C) Before certifying supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits, the department shall verify the eligibility of each household in accordance with division (F) of this section. All applications shall be approved or denied through full verification within thirty days from receipt of the application by the county department of job and family services.

(D) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the certification of households that qualify under federal regulations to receive supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits without charge under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

(E) Any person who applies for the supplemental nutrition assistance program shall receive a voter registration application under section 3503.10 of the Revised Code.

(F) (1) In order to verify household eligibility as required by federal regulations and this section, the department shall, except as provided in division (F) (2) of this section, verify at least the following information before certifying supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits:

(a) Household composition;

(b) Identity;

(c) Citizenship and alien eligibility status;

(d) Social security numbers;

(e) State residency status;

(f) Disability status;	162
(g) Gross nonexempt income;	163
(h) Utility expenses;	164
(i) Medical expenses;	165
(j) Enrollment status in other state-administered public assistance programs within and outside this state;	166 167
(k) Any available information related to potential identity fraud or identity theft.	168 169
(2) A household's eligibility for supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits may be certified before all of the information identified in division (F) (1) of this section is verified if the household's certification is being expedited under division (B) of this section.	170 171 172 173 174
(3) On at least a quarterly basis and consistent with federal regulations, as information is received by a county department of job and family services, the county department shall review and act on information identified in division (F) (1) of this section that indicates a change in circumstances that may affect eligibility, to the extent such information is available to the department.	175 176 177 178 179 180 181
(4) Consistent with federal regulations, as part of the application for public assistance and before certifying benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, the department shall require an applicant, or a person acting on the applicant's behalf, to verify the identity of the members of the applicant household.	182 183 184 185 186 187
(5) (a) The department shall sign a memorandum of understanding with any department, agency, or division as needed	188 189

to obtain the information identified in division (F) (1) of this section.	190 191
(b) The department may contract with one or more independent vendors to provide the information identified in division (F) (1) of this section.	192 193 194
(c) Nothing in this section prevents the department or a county department of job and family services from receiving or reviewing additional information related to eligibility not identified in this section or from contracting with one or more independent vendors to provide additional information not identified in this section.	195 196 197 198 199 200
(6) The department shall explore joining a multistate cooperative, such as the national accuracy clearinghouse, to identify individuals enrolled in public assistance programs outside of this state.	201 202 203 204
(G) The department shall use the same criteria to verify gross nonexempt income from self-employment pursuant to division (F) (1) of this section as were used during initial certification when:	205 206 207 208
(1) Reviewing information pursuant to division (F) (3) of this section regarding households with income from self-employment;	209 210 211
(2) Recertifying households with income from self-employment.	212 213
(H) If the department receives information concerning a household certified to receive supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits that indicates a change in circumstances that may affect eligibility, the department shall take action in accordance with federal regulations, including verifying unclear	214 215 216 217 218

information, providing prior written notice of a change or 219  
adverse action, and notifying the household of the right to a 220  
fair hearing. 221

(I) In the case of suspected fraud, the department shall 222  
refer the case for an administrative disqualification hearing or 223  
to the county prosecutor of the county in which the applicant or 224  
recipient resides for investigation, or both. 225

(J) The department shall adopt rules in accordance with 226  
Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to implement divisions (F) to 227  
(I) of this section. 228

(K) Except as prohibited by federal law, the department 229  
may assign any of the duties described in this section to any 230  
county department of job and family services. 231

**Sec. 5101.542.** (A) Immediately following a county 232  
department of job and family services' certification that a 233  
household determined under division (B) of section 5101.54 of 234  
the Revised Code to be in immediate need of nutrition assistance 235  
is eligible for the supplemental nutrition assistance program, 236  
the department of job and family services shall provide for the 237  
household to be sent by regular United States mail an electronic 238  
benefit transfer card containing the amount of benefits the 239  
household is eligible to receive under the program. The card 240  
shall be sent to the member of the household in whose name 241  
application for the supplemental nutrition assistance program 242  
was made or that member's authorized representative. 243

(B) Except as provided in division (C) of this section, 244  
the department shall replace any electronic benefit transfer 245  
card that is reported by a household to be lost, stolen, or 246  
damaged, within two business days of receiving notice of the 247

card's condition, in accordance with 7 C.F.R. 274.6(b). 248

(C) (1) The department shall implement the option described 249  
in 7 C.F.R. 274.6(b) (5) and shall withhold a replacement 250  
electronic benefit transfer card from a household that requests 251  
four or more replacement cards during a twelve-month period 252  
until the requirements specified in 7 C.F.R. 274.6(b) (5) have 253  
been satisfied. 254

(2) The department shall not withhold a replacement card 255  
as described under division (C) (1) of this section if the 256  
individual requesting the replacement has a disability directly 257  
related to the loss of the card. 258

(D) Beginning on the effective date of this amendment, the 259  
department shall ensure that all new electronic benefit transfer 260  
cards are chip-enabled cards that meet the requirements 261  
specified in technical guidance prepared by the United States 262  
department of agriculture. Thereafter, the department shall 263  
replace all existing electronic benefit transfer cards with 264  
chip-enabled cards under the department's ordinary time frame 265  
for replacing electronic benefit transfer cards. 266

**Sec. 5101.5411.** The director of job and family services 267  
shall ensure that the department of job and family services' web 268  
site contains a mechanism that allows supplemental nutrition 269  
assistance program benefit recipients to report alleged 270  
fraudulent transactions to the department. 271

**Section 2.** That existing sections 5101.54 and 5101.542 of 272  
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 273

**Section 3.** This act shall be known as the Enhanced 274  
Cybersecurity for SNAP Act of 2026. 275

**Section 4.** All items in this act are hereby appropriated 276

as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the 277  
 credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations 278  
 made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year 279  
 2026 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2027. 280  
 The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to 281  
 any other operating appropriations made for these fiscal years. 282

**Section 5.** 283  
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	1	2	3	4	5
A	JFS DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES				
B	General Revenue Fund				
C	GRF	600569	SNAP EBT Modernization	\$0	\$2,250,000
D	TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund			\$0	\$2,250,000
E	Federal Fund Group				
F	3840	600610	Food Assistance Programs	\$0	\$750,000
G	TOTAL FED Federal Fund Group			\$0	\$750,000
H	TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS			\$0	\$3,000,000

SNAP EBT MODERNIZATION 285

The foregoing appropriation items 600569, SNAP EBT 286  
 Modernization, and 600610, Food Assistance Programs, shall be 287  
 used to support the transition to chip-enabled Supplemental 288  
 Nutrition Assistance Program electronic benefit transfer cards. 289

**Section 6.** Within the limits set forth in this act, the 290  
 Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 291

indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation	292
made in this act, and shall determine the manner in which	293
appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from	294
operating appropriations contained in this act shall be	295
accounted for as though made in, and are subject to all	296
applicable provisions of, H.B. 96 of the 136th General Assembly.	297