As Introduced

136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026

S. B. No. 315

Senators Schaffer, Craig
Cosponsors: Senators Koehler, DeMora, Weinstein, Antonio

To amend sections 5101.54 and 5101.542 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, 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 of the Revised Code be amended 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 family services, and other matters;

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

advisable;

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

(5) Conduct such investigations as are necessary;

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

(7) Adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code governing employment and training requirements of recipients of supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits, including rules specifying which recipients are subject to the requirements and establishing sanctions for failure to satisfy the requirements. The rules shall be consistent with 7 U.S.C. 2015, including its work and employment and training requirements, and, to the extent practicable, shall provide for the recipients to participate in work activities, developmental activities, and alternative work activities described in sections 5107.40 to 5107.69 of the Revised Code that are comparable to programs authorized by 7 U.S.C. 2015(d)(4). The rules may reference rules adopted under section 5107.05

of the Revised Code governing work activities, developmental activities, and alternative work activities described in sections 5107.40 to 5107.69 of the Revised Code.

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

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

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

(c) Allotment of supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits;

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

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

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

(9) Submit a plan to the United States secretary of agriculture for the department of job and family services to operate a simplified supplemental nutrition assistance program pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2035 under which requirements governing the Ohio works first program established under Chapter 5107. of the

Revised Code also govern the supplemental nutrition assistance program in the case of households receiving supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits and participating in Ohio works first.

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

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

(B) A household that is entitled to receive supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits and that is determined to be in immediate need of nutrition assistance shall receive certification of eligibility for program benefits, pending verification, within twenty-four hours, or, if mitigating circumstances occur, within seventy-two hours, after application, if:

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

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

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

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

(c) A summary of the information obtained.

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

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

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;

(g) Gross nonexempt income;

(h) Utility expenses;

(i) Medical expenses;

(j) Enrollment status in other state-administered public assistance programs within and outside this state;

(k) Any available information related to potential identity fraud or identity theft.

(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.

(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.

(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.

(5)(a) The department shall sign a memorandum of understanding with any department, agency, or division as needed to obtain the information identified in division (F)(1) of this section.

(b) The department may contract with one or more independent vendors to provide the information identified in

division (F)(1) of this section.

(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.

(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.

(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:

(1) Reviewing information pursuant to division (F)(3) of this section regarding households with income from self-employment;

(2) Recertifying households with income from self-employment.

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

(I) In the case of suspected fraud, the department shall

refer the case for an administrative disqualification hearing or to the county prosecutor of the county in which the applicant or recipient resides for investigation, or both.

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

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

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

(B) Except as provided in division (C) of this section, the department shall replace any electronic benefit transfer card that is reported by a household to be lost, stolen, or damaged, within two business days of receiving notice of the card's condition, in accordance with 7 C.F.R. 274.6(b).

(C)(1) The department shall implement the option described in 7 C.F.R. 274.6(b)(5) and shall withhold a replacement electronic benefit transfer card from a household that requests

four or more replacement cards during a twelve-month period until the requirements specified in 7 C.F.R. 274.6(b)(5) have been satisfied.

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

(D) The department shall establish a process as part of the department's existing customer service telephone hotline that allows individuals to lock or unlock an electronic benefit transfer card that has been lost or stolen.

(E) Not later than October 1, 2026, the department shall replace all existing electronic benefit transfer cards with chip-enabled cards that meet the requirements specified in technical guidance prepared by the United States department of agriculture. Thereafter, all new electronic benefit transfer cards issued shall be chip-enabled cards as described in this section.

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

Section 3. This act shall be known as the Enhanced Cybersecurity for SNAP Act.

Section 4. All items in this act are hereby appropriated as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year 2026 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2027. The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to any other operating appropriations made for these fiscal years.

Section 5.

1	2	3	4	5
A		JFS DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES		
B	General Revenue Fund			
C	GRF	600569 SNAP EBT Modernization	$5,300,000	$0
D	General Revenue Fund Total		$5,300,000	$0
E	Federal Fund Group			
F	3840	600610 Food Assistance Programs	$5,300,000	$0
G	Federal Fund Group Total		$5,300,000	$0
H	TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS		$10,600,000	$0

SNAP EBT MODERNIZATION

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

On July 1, 2026, or as soon as possible thereafter, the Director of Job and Family Services may certify to the Director of Budget and Management an amount up to the unexpended, unencumbered balance associated with these appropriations at the end of fiscal year 2026 to be reappropriated to fiscal year 2027. The amounts certified are hereby reappropriated to the same appropriation items for fiscal year 2027.

Section 6. Within the limits set forth in this act, the

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