

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 800 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY REESE, EVANKOVICH, KRIEGER, DUNBAR, TURZAI, ADOLPH, AUMENT, BENNINGHOFF, BOYD, CAUSER, CHRISTIANA, CLYMER, D. COSTA, COX, CREIGHTON, CUTLER, DALEY, DAVIS, DAY, DeLUCA, DENLINGER, ELLIS, FARRY, FLECK, GABLER, GEIST, GOODMAN, GRELL, GROVE, HAHN, HALUSKA, HARRIS, HEFFLEY, HELM, HESS, HICKERNELL, HORNAMAN, HUTCHINSON, KAUFFMAN, KNOWLES, LONGIETTI, MAJOR, MARSHALL, MARSICO, METCALFE, METZGAR, MILLER, MILNE, MOUL, OBERLANDER, O'NEILL, PEIFER, PETRARCA, PYLE, QUIGLEY, RAPP, REED, ROAE, ROCK, SACCONI, SAYLOR, CULVER, SIMMONS, SONNEY, STERN, SWANGER, TALLMAN, TOOHL, TRUITT, VULAKOVICH, WATSON AND PERRY, MARCH 3, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MARCH 3, 2011

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), entitled "An  
2 act to consolidate, editorially revise, and codify the public  
3 welfare laws of the Commonwealth," in public assistance,  
4 further providing for prohibited use of public assistance  
5 funds.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Section 484 of the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31,  
9 No.21), known as the Public Welfare Code, added December 17,  
10 2009 (P.L.598, No.54), is amended to read:

11 Section 484. Prohibited Use of Public Assistance Funds.--[It  
12 shall be unlawful for any individual to purchase liquor or  
13 alcohol with a gift certificate or a gift card which is in the  
14 form of an electronic benefits card issued to convey public  
15 assistance benefits administered by the Department of Public

1 Welfare or a debit card issued to convey support payment  
2 moneys.] (a) Notwithstanding Federal program standards,  
3 requirements or procedures, cash assistance benefits shall only  
4 be provided by a vendor through point-of-sale terminals which  
5 have been authorized by the department after a purchase has been  
6 made by the recipient.

7 (b) No exchange of cash may occur between the recipient and  
8 vendor.

9 (c) Cash assistance benefits may not be distributed through  
10 automated teller machines or similar devices.

11 (d) Cash assistance benefits shall only be used to obtain  
12 the following:

13 (1) Housing.

14 (2) Personal toiletries.

15 (3) Food, as specified under the guidelines for the  
16 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

17 (4) Clothing.

18 (5) Public transportation services.

19 (e) Cash assistance benefits may not be used for any of the  
20 following:

21 (1) To purchase tobacco products.

22 (2) To purchase a beverage with alcoholic content or an item  
23 with alcoholic content.

24 (3) To purchase lottery tickets or tickets for games of  
25 chance.

26 Section 2. Within 90 days of the effective date of this  
27 section, the Department of Public Welfare shall submit to the  
28 appropriate Federal agency a request for appropriate waiver of  
29 Federal law and for any other approval by the Federal Government  
30 necessary for the implementation of the programs added by this

1 act. The department shall enter into good faith negotiations  
2 with the appropriate Federal authorities and make every effort  
3 to obtain the necessary Federal waiver and approval.

4 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.