

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1514 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY REESE, BAKER, BENNINGHOFF, BLOOM, BOBACK, CAUSER, D. COSTA, DeLUCA, DIAMOND, DUNBAR, FEE, GABLER, GILLEN, GOODMAN, GROVE, HAHN, A. HARRIS, HEFFLEY, HICKERNELL, KAUFFMAN, M. K. KELLER, KNOWLES, LAWRENCE, LONGIETTI, MAJOR, MARSICO, MCGINNIS, METCALFE, METZGAR, MILLARD, MOUL, MULLERY, MURT, OBERLANDER, PEIFER, PICKETT, SACCONI, SANKEY, SAYLOR, SIMMONS, TALLMAN, TOEPEL, TOPPER, TRUITT AND WATSON, AUGUST 26, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AUGUST 26, 2015

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
16 Welfare or a debit card issued to convey support payment

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

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

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

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

12 (1) Housing.

13 (2) Personal toiletries.

14 (3) Food, as specified under the guidelines for the
15 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program established by the
16 United States Department of Agriculture.

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 Human Services 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.