
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1577 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY WARNER, MILLARD, KAUFFMAN, BOBACK, METZGAR,
BARRAR, DUNBAR, BENNINGHOFF, SAYLOR, A. HARRIS, PICKETT,
REESE, B. MILLER, TOPPER, DeLUCA, BLOOM, GROVE, MENTZER,
WARD, KAUFER AND ORTITAY, JUNE 16, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JUNE 16, 2017

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 responsibilities and obligations of the
5 Department of Human Services, applicants and recipients and
6 establishing the Electronic Benefits Transfer Card Management
7 Program.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Section 405.3(a) of the act of June 13, 1967
11 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, is amended by
12 adding a paragraph to read:

13 Section 405.3. Responsibilities and Obligations of
14 Department, Applicants and Recipients.--(a) Subject to Federal
15 approval, only where necessary, each adult applicant or
16 recipient of cash assistance or other person who is required to
17 sign an application for assistance shall be required as a
18 condition of eligibility to enter into a mutual agreement with
19 the department that will set forth the responsibilities and

1 obligations to be undertaken by the recipient to achieve self-
2 sufficiency, the time frames within which each obligation is to
3 be completed, the penalties for failure to comply and the
4 actions to be taken by the department to support the efforts of
5 the applicant or recipient. Where appropriate, these obligations
6 shall include, but not be limited to:

7 * * *

8 (10) Agreeing to comply with the requirements of the
9 Electronic Benefits Transfer Card Management Program under
10 section 414.1.

11 * * *

12 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

13 Section 414.1. Electronic Benefits Transfer Card Management
14 Program.--(a) The department shall establish and maintain a
15 program to be known as the Electronic Benefits Transfer Card
16 Management Program.

17 (b) The purpose of the program is to ensure the efficient
18 delivery of public assistance through the proper management of
19 electronic benefits transfer cards.

20 (c) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations
21 enumerating acceptable purchases and transaction types which are
22 consistent with assisting the recipient in achieving self-
23 sufficiency.

24 (d) The department shall develop electronic controls,
25 oversight mechanisms and follow-up procedures to detect and
26 track the following:

27 (1) Suspicious electronic benefits transfer card
28 transactions that might indicate fraudulent use.

29 (2) The use of electronic benefits transfer cards outside
30 this Commonwealth that might indicate the receipt of benefits by

1 a nonresident or an individual who is no longer eligible for
2 benefits.

3 (3) The use of electronic benefits transfer cards that might
4 indicate an attempt to acquire goods and services that do not
5 comply with the rules and regulations promulgated under
6 subsection (c).

7 (e) Unless otherwise prohibited, data and information
8 gathered under this section shall be made available to the
9 Office of Inspector General, the Auditor General and the
10 Attorney General.

11 (f) As used in this section, the term "program" means the
12 Electronic Benefits Transfer Card Management Program.

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