
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 992 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY D. MILLER, INNAMORATO, KINSEY, SCHLOSSBERG, HILL-
EVANS, N. NELSON, HOHENSTEIN, GUENST, D. WILLIAMS, FRANKEL,
DEASY, SIMS, SANCHEZ AND LEE, APRIL 7, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, APRIL 7, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 10, 1986 (P.L.1396, No.121), entitled
2 "An act authorizing the use of State funds to expand a
3 special supplemental food program for women, infants and
4 children," further providing for definitions and providing
5 for Remote eWIC Reloading Pilot Program.

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

8 Section 1. Section 3 of the act of July 10, 1986 (P.L.1396,
9 No.121), known as the Women's, Infants' and Children's Nutrition
10 Improvement Act, is amended by adding definitions to read:

11 Section 3. Definitions.

12 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
13 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
14 context clearly indicates otherwise:

15 * * *

16 "eWIC card." The card issued to WIC eligibles for the
17 purpose of purchasing allowed items through the WIC Program.

18 "eWIC program." The Remote eWIC Reloading Pilot Program
19 established under section 5.1 of this act.

1 * * *

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

3 Section 5.1. Remote eWIC Reloading Pilot Program.

4 (a) Establishment.--The Remote eWIC Reloading Pilot Program
5 is established as a pilot program within the department.

6 (b) Funding.--The department shall seek funding from the
7 General Fund to implement the eWIC program.

8 (c) Notice.--Upon the initial appropriation of sufficient
9 money to implement the eWIC program, the department shall
10 transmit notice of the appropriation to the Legislative
11 Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

12 (d) Eligibility.--Individuals who are deemed to be WIC
13 eligibles and who live in a county of the first class or a
14 county of the second class shall be eligible to participate in
15 the eWIC program.

16 (e) Administration.--The department shall administer the
17 eWIC program to empower WIC Program administrators in a county
18 of the first class or a county of the second class to
19 collaboratively develop a system that allows WIC funds to be
20 remotely reloaded onto eWIC cards administered to WIC eligibles.
21 The following apply:

22 (1) The department shall develop a remote eWIC system to
23 allow the virtual reloading of WIC funds onto eWIC cards for
24 the purpose of granting WIC eligibles the option of not
25 reporting in person to have money reloaded onto issued eWIC
26 cards.

27 (2) The department shall:

28 (i) Promulgate regulations necessary to implement
29 the eWIC program.

30 (ii) Seek any necessary waivers from the Federal

1 Government to implement the eWIC program.

2 (3) The eWIC program shall be operated for one year
3 following the effective date of this section.

4 (f) Report.--Within one year of the conclusion of the eWIC
5 program, the department shall publish and transmit a report to
6 the General Assembly on the eWIC program, which shall include,
7 at a minimum, the following information:

8 (1) The overall participation rate of WIC services in
9 each county that participated in the eWIC program.

10 (2) The participation and nonparticipation rates among
11 WIC eligibles in the eWIC program.

12 (3) The participation rates of other services available
13 to WIC eligibles that are offered to individuals who report
14 in person to have their eWIC cards reloaded.

15 (4) The estimated funding necessary to implement a
16 remote eWIC reloading system for all WIC eligibles residing
17 in this Commonwealth.

18 (5) Any limitations or logistical barriers that could
19 prevent WIC eligibles from participating in a remote eWIC
20 reloading system in this Commonwealth, including broadband
21 connectivity and program and technological infrastructure.

22 (6) Suggestions to address any limitations or logistical
23 barriers specified in paragraph (5), following input sought
24 by the department from public and private organizations using
25 best practices that relate to the improvement of WIC
26 services.

27 (g) Construction.--Nothing in this section shall prevent WIC
28 eligibles from continuing to report in person to have WIC funds
29 reloaded onto an issued eWIC card.

30 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 180 days.