

HOUSE No. 3556

Sections 4, 74 and 75 contained in the engrossed Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2013 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (see House, No. 3539), which had been returned by His Excellency the Governor with recommendation of amendment (for message, see House, No. 3553). July 11, 2013.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen
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An Act to study the prevention of fraud in the EBT program.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to study measures enacted to prevent fraud in the Massachusetts EBT cash assistance program, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Paragraph (B) of section 2 of chapter 18 of the General Laws, as amended
2 by section 1 of chapter 161 of the acts of 2012, is hereby further amended by adding the
3 following 2 clauses:-

4 (k) require the use of photo identification on the front of each newly issued and reissued
5 electronic benefit transfer card for each cardholder who is over the age of 18; provided, however,
6 that the department shall promulgate regulations to ensure that all authorized users and members
7 of the household are able to use an electronic benefit transfer card pursuant to 7 U.S.C.A §
8 2016(h)(9); provided further, that the department shall not require the use of photo identification
9 for individuals who are 60 years of age or over, blind, disabled or victims of domestic violence;
10 and provided, further, that in developing regulations for authorized users, the department shall
11 consult with businesses or vendor associations whose members accept electronic benefit transfer
12 cards as a form of payment including, but not limited to, the Massachusetts Food Association,
13 the New England Convenience Store Association and the Retailers Association of
14 Massachusetts.

15 (l) include the fraud hotline number and department website on all newly issued
16 electronic benefit transfer cards.

17 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, and pursuant to
18 section 2 of chapter 18 of the General Laws, within 12 months of the effective date of this act,
19 the department of transitional assistance shall replace all existing electronic benefit transfer cards
20 with cards containing a photograph of the cardholder.

21 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, and pursuant to
22 section 2 of chapter 18 of the General Laws, within 6 months of the effective date of this act, the
23 department of transitional assistance shall include on all new or reissued electronic benefit cards
24 a photograph of the cardholder.