



100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

SB1709

Introduced 2/9/2017, by Sen. Chapin Rose

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

305 ILCS 5/12-4.4a new

Amends the Illinois Public Aid Code. Requires the Secretary of Human Services to seek a waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture to allow the State to include on the face of every LINK card issued to a recipient of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits or cash assistance under the Code a photo of the cardholder. Requires the Department of Human Services to provide the General Assembly with various good faith cost estimates including the estimated cost of replacing every still-valid LINK card with a card that contains on its face a photo of the cardholder and the estimated cost of "phasing in" new photo identification cards issued under the current contract with the current LINK card vendor. Provides that the Department shall suggest a process to the General Assembly that allows the caregiver of a recipient of SNAP benefits or cash assistance under this Code to use the recipient's LINK card on the recipient's behalf. Provides that the General Assembly shall through legislation determine whether it wishes to implement the waiver based on projected cost estimates and other matters.

LRB100 10026 KTG 20198 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by
5 adding Section 12-4.4a as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 5/12-4.4a new)

7 Sec. 12-4.4a. LINK cards; cardholder photo.

8 (a) In this Section:

9 "Cardholder" means the person to whom or for whose benefit
10 the Department issues an electronic benefits transfer card for
11 the purpose of obtaining SNAP benefits or cash.

12 "Caregiver" has the meaning ascribed to that term in
13 Section 12-4.4a of the Criminal Code of 2012.

14 "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

15 "LINK card" means an electronic benefits transfer card
16 issued by the Department for the purpose of enabling the
17 cardholder to obtain SNAP benefits or cash.

18 "SNAP" means the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
19 Program.

20 (b) Within 6 months after the effective date of this
21 amendatory Act of the 100th General Assembly, the Secretary of
22 Human Services shall seek a waiver from the United States
23 Department of Agriculture to allow the State to include on the

1 face of every LINK card issued to a recipient of SNAP benefits
2 or cash assistance under this Code a photo of the cardholder.

3 (c) Within 6 months after the effective date of this
4 amendatory Act of the 100th General Assembly, the Department
5 shall provide the General Assembly with a good faith estimate
6 of the cost, pursuant to a potential waiver under subsection
7 (b), of (i) replacing every still-valid LINK card with a card
8 that contains on its face a photo of the cardholder; (ii)
9 "phasing in" new photo identification cards issued under the
10 current contract with the current LINK card vendor; and (iii)
11 implementing photo identification cards pursuant to federal
12 waiver in subsection (b) through new request for proposals once
13 the contract with the current LINK card vendor expires.

14 (d) Within 6 months after the effective date of this
15 amendatory Act of the 100th General Assembly, the Department
16 shall suggest a process to the General Assembly that allows the
17 caregiver of a recipient of SNAP benefits or cash assistance
18 under this Code to use the recipient's LINK card on the
19 recipient's behalf pursuant to the subsection (b) waiver.

20 (e) If the subsection (b) waiver is received, it shall be
21 up to the General Assembly through legislation to determine
22 whether it wishes to implement the waiver based upon the
23 findings in subsection (c) and subsection (d).