

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; drug  
8 screening.

9 (a) In this Section:

10 "Cardholder" means the person to whom or for whose benefit  
11 the Department issues an electronic benefits transfer card for  
12 the purpose of obtaining SNAP benefits (formerly known as food  
13 stamps) or cash.

14 "Caregiver" has the same meaning ascribed to that term in  
15 Section 12-21 of the Criminal Code of 1961.

16 "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

17 "LINK card" means an electronic benefits transfer card  
18 issued by the Department for the purpose of enabling the  
19 cardholder to obtain SNAP benefits (formerly known as food  
20 stamps) or cash.

21 "SNAP" means the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
22 Program (formerly known as the Food Stamp Program).

23 (b) Within 6 months after the effective date of this

1 amendatory Act of the 97th General Assembly, the Secretary of  
2 Human Services shall seek a waiver from the United States  
3 Department of Agriculture to allow the State to include on the  
4 face of every LINK card issued to a recipient of SNAP benefits  
5 or cash assistance under this Code a photo of the cardholder.

6 (c) Within 6 months after the effective date of this  
7 amendatory Act of the 97th General Assembly, the Department  
8 shall provide the Illinois General Assembly with a good faith  
9 estimate of the cost, pursuant to a potential waiver under  
10 subsection (b), of (i) replacing every still-valid LINK card  
11 with a card that contains on its face a photo of the  
12 cardholder; (ii) "phasing-in" new photo identification cards  
13 issued under the current contract with the current LINK card  
14 vendor; and (iii) implementing photo identification cards  
15 pursuant to federal waiver in subsection (b) through new  
16 request for proposals (RFP) once the contract with the current  
17 LINK card vendor expires.

18 (d) Within 6 months after the effective date of this  
19 amendatory Act of the 97th General Assembly, the Department  
20 shall suggest a process to the Illinois General Assembly that  
21 allows the caregiver of a recipient of SNAP benefits or cash  
22 assistance under this Code to use the recipient's LINK card on  
23 the recipient's behalf pursuant to the subsection (b) waiver.

24 (e) If the subsection (b) waiver is received it shall be up  
25 to the Illinois General Assembly through legislation to  
26 determine whether it wishes to implement the waiver based upon

1 the findings in subsection (c) and subsection (d).