SB1531

LRB09807634KTG37706b

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2013 and 2014

SB1531

Introduced 2/13/2013, 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 SNAP benefits (formerly food stamps) or cash assistance under the Code a photo of the cardholder. Requires the Department of Human Services to provide the Illinois 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 Illinois General Assembly that allows the caregiver of a recipient of SNAP benefits or cash assistance under the Code to use the recipient's LINK card on the recipient's behalf. Provides that the Illinois General Assembly shall through legislation determine whether it wishes to implement the waiver based on projected cost estimates and other matters.

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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; 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 12-4.4a of the Criminal Code of 2012.

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 98th 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 98th 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 98th 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).