

HB 1586 -- FOOD STAMP ELIGIBILITY

SPONSOR: Koenig

This bill requires the Department of Social Services to seek a waiver from the federal government to mandate the use of photo identification for continued eligibility in the food stamp program administered in this state. One year after approval from the federal government, all electronic benefit cards distributed to recipients of food stamps must have imprinted on the card a photograph of the recipient or protective payee authorized to use the card. The card expires and is subject to renewal after three years. The card must not be accepted for use by a retail establishment if the photograph of the recipient does not match the person presenting the card.

The department must establish the necessary rules and regulations to implement these provisions. The rules must ensure compliance with federal law, taking into account individuals and households with special needs as well as ensuring that all appropriate household members or authorized representatives are able to access benefits from the account as necessary.