

By: Bonnen of Galveston

H.B. No. 620

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to electronic benefits transfer cards used for recipients of benefits under certain assistance programs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.0911 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.0911. PHOTOGRAPH ON CERTAIN ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER CARDS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Financial assistance program" means the financial assistance program established under Chapter 31, Human Resources Code.

(2) "Recipient" means a person who receives benefits under the financial assistance program or the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

(3) "Supplemental nutrition assistance program" has the meaning assigned by Section 33.051, Human Resources Code.

(b) The commission shall ensure that each electronic benefits transfer card used by a recipient, or other person authorized on the recipient's account, for purposes of receiving benefits under the financial assistance program or the supplemental nutrition assistance program displays the name and photograph of the recipient or other authorized person, as appropriate.

SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2016, the Health and Human Services Commission shall ensure that electronic benefits

1 transfer cards used on or after that date to deliver benefits to
2 recipients under the financial assistance program under Chapter 31,
3 Human Resources Code, and the supplemental nutrition assistance
4 program under Chapter 33, Human Resources Code, conform to Section
5 531.0911, Government Code, as added by this Act.

6 SECTION 3. If before implementing any provision of this Act
7 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
8 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
9 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
10 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
11 waiver or authorization is granted.

12 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.