

By: Schaefer

H.B. No. 1973

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 AND OTHER INFORMATION 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 the front side of 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:

(1) the name and photograph of the recipient or other authorized person, as appropriate;

(2) the words "Fraud Hotline" followed by the

1 telephone number of the commission's toll-free hotline for  
2 reporting suspected fraud required under Section 531.108(b)(2);

3 (3) the Internet website address maintained by the  
4 commission for the purpose of allowing persons to report suspected  
5 fraud in either the financial assistance program or the  
6 supplemental nutrition assistance program; and

7 (4) the statement "Funds provided by American  
8 taxpayers."

9 SECTION 2. Not later than September 1, 2016, the Health and  
10 Human Services Commission shall ensure that electronic benefits  
11 transfer cards used on or after that date to deliver benefits to  
12 recipients under the financial assistance program under Chapter 31,  
13 Human Resources Code, and the supplemental nutrition assistance  
14 program under Chapter 33, Human Resources Code, conform to Section  
15 531.0911, Government Code, as added by this Act.

16 SECTION 3. If before implementing any provision of this Act  
17 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a  
18 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,  
19 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or  
20 authorization.

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