

**As Introduced**

**132nd General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2017-2018**

**H. B. No. 50**

**Representative Schaffer**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Roegner, Koehler, Retherford, McColley, Brenner,  
Conditt, Thompson, Becker, Wiggam, Riedel, Blessing, Henne, Dean, Seitz,  
Merrin, Goodman, LaTourette, Hambley**

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 5101.33 and 5101.542 and to enact 1  
section 5101.331 of the Revised Code to 2  
establish requirements for electronic benefit 3  
transfer cards issued under the Supplemental 4  
Nutrition Assistance Program. 5

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 5101.33 and 5101.542 be amended 6  
and section 5101.331 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as 7  
follows: 8

**Sec. 5101.33.** (A) As used in this section, "benefits" 9  
means any of the following: 10

(1) Cash assistance paid under Chapter 5107. or 5115. of 11  
the Revised Code; 12

(2) Supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits 13  
provided under section 5101.54 of the Revised Code; 14

(3) Any other program administered by the department of 15  
job and family services under which assistance is provided or 16

service rendered; 17

(4) Any other program, service, or assistance administered 18  
by a person or government entity that the department determines 19  
may be delivered through the medium of electronic benefit 20  
transfer. 21

(B) ~~The~~ Subject to section 5101.331 of the Revised Code, 22  
the department of job and family services may make any payment 23  
or delivery of benefits to eligible individuals through the 24  
medium of electronic benefit transfer by doing all of the 25  
following: 26

(1) Contracting with an agent to supply debit cards to the 27  
department of job and family services for use by such 28  
individuals in accessing their benefits and to credit such cards 29  
electronically with the amounts specified by the director of job 30  
and family services pursuant to law; 31

(2) Informing such individuals about the use of the 32  
electronic benefit transfer system and furnishing them with 33  
debit cards and information that will enable them to access 34  
their benefits through the system; 35

(3) Arranging with specific financial institutions or 36  
vendors, county departments of job and family services, or 37  
persons or government entities for individuals to have their 38  
cards credited electronically with the proper amounts at their 39  
facilities; 40

(4) Periodically preparing vouchers for the payment of 41  
such benefits by electronic benefit transfer; 42

(5) Satisfying any applicable requirements of federal and 43  
state law. 44

(C) The department may enter into a written agreement with  
any person or government entity to provide benefits administered  
by that person or entity through the medium of electronic  
benefit transfer. A written agreement may require the person or  
government entity to pay to the department either or both of the  
following:

(1) A charge that reimburses the department for all costs  
the department incurs in having the benefits administered by the  
person or entity provided through the electronic benefit  
transfer system;

(2) A fee for having the benefits provided through the  
electronic benefit transfer system.

(D) The department may designate which counties will  
participate in the medium of electronic benefit transfer,  
specify the date a designated county will begin participation,  
and specify which benefits will be provided through the medium  
of electronic benefit transfer in a designated county.

(E) The department may adopt rules in accordance with  
Chapter 119. of the Revised Code for the efficient  
administration of this section and section 5101.331 of the  
Revised Code.

**Sec. 5101.331.** (A) Except as otherwise provided in this  
section, each debit card used to access supplemental nutrition  
assistance program benefits shall include both of the following:

(1) On the front of the card, a color photograph of at  
least one adult member of the household for which the debit card  
is issued;

(2) On the back of the card, a telephone number that can  
be called to report suspected fraud under the supplemental

nutrition assistance program and the address of a web site where 74  
suspected fraud can be reported. 75

(B) Subject to division (C) of this section, both of the 76  
following apply: 77

(1) All new debit cards issued on or after the date that 78  
is six months after the effective date of this section shall 79  
meet the requirements of division (A) of this section. 80

(2) Not later than twelve months after the effective date 81  
of this section, each debit card issued before the date that is 82  
six months after the effective date of this section shall be 83  
replaced with a debit card that meets the requirements of 84  
division (A) of this section if the household for which the 85  
debit card was issued continues to participate in the 86  
supplemental nutrition assistance program. 87

(C) The requirement of division (A) (1) of this section 88  
does not apply to a debit card issued for a household to which 89  
either of the following applies: 90

(1) The household does not include any adult members. 91

(2) Each of the adult members of the household is sixty 92  
years of age or older; is blind, disabled, or a victim of 93  
domestic violence; or has religious objections to being 94  
photographed. 95

**Sec. 5101.542.** Immediately following a county department 96  
of job and family services' certification that a household 97  
determined under division (B) of section 5101.54 of the Revised 98  
Code to be in immediate need of nutrition assistance is eligible 99  
for the supplemental nutrition assistance program, the 100  
department of job and family services shall provide for the 101  
household to be sent by regular United States mail an electronic 102

benefit transfer card containing the amount of benefits the 103  
household is eligible to receive under the program. The card 104  
shall be sent to the member of the household in whose name 105  
application for the supplemental nutrition assistance program 106  
was made or that member's authorized representative. Section 107  
5101.331 of the Revised Code applies to the card. 108

**Section 2.** That existing sections 5101.33 and 5101.542 of 109  
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 110