

SENATE BILL 880

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6lr0944

By: **Senator Jennings**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 15, 2016

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Family Investment Administration—Electronic Benefits Transfer~~
3 ~~Card—Photograph~~
4 Task Force to Study Welfare Reform in Maryland

5 FOR the purpose of ~~requiring, with certain exceptions, each newly issued or reissued~~
6 ~~electronic benefits transfer card to contain a photograph of the recipient of the~~
7 ~~benefits; requiring an electronic benefits transfer card to contain a certain written~~
8 ~~statement instead of a photograph in certain circumstances; requiring the Family~~
9 ~~Investment Administration in the Department of Human Resources to establish~~
10 ~~certain procedures that relate to the issuance and use of certain electronic benefits~~
11 ~~transfer cards; prohibiting an establishment that accepts electronic benefits transfer~~
12 ~~cards from requiring a cardholder to show a certain photograph unless certain other~~
13 ~~customers are required to show certain photographic identification; and generally~~
14 ~~relating to benefits under public assistance programs~~ establishing the Task Force to
15 Study Welfare Reform in Maryland; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing
16 of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations
17 regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and
18 recommendations to the Governor and the Senate Finance Committee and the House
19 Appropriations Committee on or before a certain date; providing for the termination
20 of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Welfare Reform in
21 Maryland.

22 ~~BY adding to~~
23 ~~Article—Human Services~~
24 ~~Section 5—609~~

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



~~Annotated Code of Maryland
(2007 Volume and 2015 Supplement)~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That ~~the Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~

~~Article Human Services~~

~~5-609.~~

~~(A) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,
EACH NEWLY ISSUED OR REISSUED ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER CARD SHALL
CONTAIN A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE RECIPIENT OF THE BENEFITS.~~

~~(2) AN ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER CARD SHALL CONTAIN A
WRITTEN STATEMENT INDICATING THAT THE CARD IS VALID WITHOUT A
PHOTOGRAPH IF THE RECIPIENT IS:~~

~~(I) AGE 60 OR OLDER;~~

~~(II) DISABLED;~~

~~(III) BLIND;~~

~~(IV) A MINOR CHILD;~~

~~(V) A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; OR~~

~~(VI) OTHERWISE UNABLE TO PROVIDE A PHOTOGRAPH BECAUSE
OF A HARDSHIP SITUATION, AS DETERMINED BY A LOCAL DEPARTMENT.~~

~~(B) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ESTABLISH PROCEDURES TO:~~

~~(1) BE USED BY A LOCAL DEPARTMENT IN DETERMINING WHETHER A
RECIPIENT'S ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER CARD MUST CONTAIN A
PHOTOGRAPH UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION;~~

~~(2) ENSURE THAT ANY ELIGIBLE MEMBER OF THE RECIPIENT'S
HOUSEHOLD OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RECIPIENT MAY USE THE
ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER CARD; AND~~

~~(3) INFORM RECIPIENTS THAT OTHER ELIGIBLE MEMBERS OF THE
RECIPIENT'S HOUSEHOLD OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES MAY USE THE
ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER CARD.~~

~~(c) AN ESTABLISHMENT THAT ACCEPTS ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER CARDS MAY NOT REQUIRE A CARDHOLDER TO SHOW THE PHOTOGRAPH ON THE CARD UNLESS THE ESTABLISHMENT REQUIRES ALL OTHER CUSTOMERS TO SHOW PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION UNDER THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES.~~

(a) There is a Task Force to Study Welfare Reform in Maryland.

(b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) the Secretary of Human Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

(4) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's designee;

(5) the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the Secretary's designee;

(6) the Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee;

(7) the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, or the Secretary's designee; and

(8) the following members appointed by the Governor:

(i) a representative of a human services provider within the State;

(ii) five representatives of groups that advocate for the interests of recipients of safety-net benefits in the State; and

(iii) one current or former recipient of safety-net benefits.

(c) The Secretary of Human Resources shall chair the Task Force.

(d) The Department of Human Resources shall staff the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

- 1 (f) The Task Force shall:
- 2 (1) review all federal and State programs that provide assistance to
3 individuals with limited incomes;
- 4 (2) study data on fraud and abuse in welfare programs, metrics of success
5 of programs, duplication in programming, work requirements, federal requirements and
6 waivers for welfare programs, and any other topics as determined by the Chair;
- 7 (3) develop a comprehensive legislative proposal that incorporates
8 recommendations of the Task Force related to welfare programs that provide assistance to
9 individuals with limited incomes in order to help such individuals achieve self-sufficiency
10 within a reasonable period of time; and
- 11 (4) develop a comprehensive legislative proposal that addresses fraud and
12 abuse in welfare programs.
- 13 (g) On or before December 31, 2016, the Task Force shall report its findings and
14 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
15 Government Article, the Senate Finance Committee and the House Appropriations
16 Committee.
- 17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 ~~October~~ June 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of 7 months and, at the end of
19 December 31, 2016, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall
20 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.