

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Modification of MFIP electronic benefit transfers

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Overview

This bill prohibits MFIP recipients from using monthly cash assistance in the form of electronic benefit transfers (EBT) to purchase tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, or lottery tickets. The bill also prohibits MFIP recipients issued cash on EBT from withdrawing cash from automatic teller machines, receiving cash back from vendors, and using their EBT outside of Minnesota. The bill requires cashiers to request photo identification when EBT is used and requires the commissioner of human services to apply to conduct a demonstration project permitting a credit to be given to supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) recipients who buy Minnesota-grown foods.

Section

- 1 EBT cards; prohibited activities.** Amends § 256J.39, by adding subd. 1a.
 - (a) Prohibits MFIP recipients from using cash assistance in the form of EBT to purchase tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, or lottery tickets.
 - (b) Prohibits MFIP recipients from withdrawing MFIP cash assistance in the form of EBT from automatic teller machines or from receiving cash back from vendors.
 - (c) Prohibits MFIP recipients from using MFIP cash assistance in the form of EBT at vendors located outside of Minnesota.
- 2 EBT cards; photo identification required.** Amends § 256J.39, by adding subd. 1b.

Requires cashiers at points-of-sale to request photo ID when a MFIP EBT card is presented.
- 3 Direction to Commissioner; Food Support Demonstration Project.**

Requires the commissioner of human services to apply to the US Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service to conduct a demonstration project giving SNAP recipients a credit for the purchase of Minnesota-grown foods. The application shall be

submitted no later than October 1, 2009.