

HB 297 -- Food Stamp Eligibility

Sponsor: English

This bill requires the Department of Social Services to seek a waiver from the federal government to mandate the use of photo identification for continued eligibility in the food stamp program administered in this state. One year after approval from the federal government, the department must issue a photo identification card to each eligible household member who is 16 years old or older. Upon request, a person must present the photo identification card at issuance points, retail food stores, or meal services when exchanging benefits for eligible food.

The department must establish the necessary rules and regulations to implement these provisions. The rules must ensure compliance with federal law, taking into account individuals and households with special needs as well as ensuring that all appropriate household members or authorized representatives are able to access benefits from the account as necessary.