

HCS HB 1443 -- TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE NEEDY FAMILIES

SPONSOR: Eggleston

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Government Efficiency by a vote of 7 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Legislative Oversight Committee by a vote of 6 to 3.

This bill changes the law regarding the use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits via electronic benefit transfer (EBT) transaction. The bill adds pornography to the list of items that are prohibited from being purchased with TANF or SNAP benefits using an EBT card.

The bill requires that upon any third or subsequent violation of the prohibition against using TANF or SNAP benefits via an EBT card in a prohibited establishment or to purchase prohibited items, a TANF recipient must lose his or her TANF benefits for two years.

This bill prohibits, upon approval from the Federal Department of Health and Human Services, a recipient of TANF or SNAP from using his or her EBT card at any automated teller machine (ATM) to receive cash back on a purchase or to otherwise access the benefits as cash.

The bill repeals the provisions regarding pilot projects in certain counties to provide EBT cards to public assistance recipients.

This bill is similar to HB 164 (2017) and HB 2112 (2016).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill strengthens the work requirements by enacting disqualifications for failure. This program should be a hand up not a hand out.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Eggleston; James Whitford; and Patricia Fisher Johnson.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that children should not lose SNAP benefits because of poor decisions by parents.

Testifying against the bill was Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.