

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1550 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY DUSH, BARRAR, D. COSTA, FARRY, GILLEN, IRVIN,  
MILLARD, MILNE, MURT, RAPP, SANKEY, SAYLOR, STEPHENS, TRUITT,  
WARD AND ZIMMERMAN, SEPTEMBER 29, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, SEPTEMBER 29, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), entitled "An  
2 act to consolidate, editorially revise, and codify the public  
3 welfare laws of the Commonwealth," in public assistance,  
4 further providing for prohibited use of public assistance  
5 funds.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Section 484 of the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31,  
9 No.21), known as the Public Welfare Code, added December 17,  
10 2009 (P.L.598, No.54), is amended to read:

11 Section 484. Prohibited Use of Public Assistance Funds.--(a)  
12 It shall be unlawful for any individual to [purchase liquor or  
13 alcohol with a gift certificate or a gift card which is in the  
14 form of] use an electronic benefits card issued to convey public  
15 assistance benefits administered by the Department of [Public  
16 Welfare] Human Services or a debit card issued to convey support  
17 payment moneys[.] to:

18 (1) purchase liquor or alcohol; or

19 (2) deposit funds into an inmate account authorized,

1 administered or maintained by the Department of Corrections or a  
2 county correctional institution.

3 (b) It shall be unlawful for the Department of Corrections  
4 or a county correctional institution, or any licensee thereof,  
5 to allow for the withdrawal of public assistance funds on the  
6 premises of a correctional institution or, through a point-of-  
7 sale transaction, to allow public assistance benefits to be  
8 deposited in violation of this section.

9 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 180 days.