
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 591 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY DUSH, BARRAR, BENNINGHOFF, D. COSTA, DeLUCA,
IRVIN, MILLARD, B. MILLER, MOUL, NEILSON, O'NEILL, RYAN,
SAYLOR AND WARD, FEBRUARY 23, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, FEBRUARY 23, 2017

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 Human Services Code, is amended to read:

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

17 (1) purchase liquor or alcohol; or

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

19 administered or maintained by the Department of Corrections or a

1 county correctional institution.

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

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