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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 903 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY REESE, AUMENT, BARRAR, BENNINGHOFF, BLOOM, CAUSER, CLYMER, D. COSTA, CUTLER, DeLUCA, DENLINGER, DUNBAR, EVANKOVICH, EVERETT, FLECK, GABLER, GILLEN, GOODMAN, GROVE, HAHN, C. HARRIS, HESS, KAUFFMAN, KORTZ, KRIEGER, LAWRENCE, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MAJOR, MARSHALL, MARSICO, METCALFE, MILLARD, MILLER, MOUL, O'NEILL, PICKETT, QUINN, REED, ROCK, SACCONI, SAYLOR, SIMMONS, STERN, SWANGER, TALLMAN, TOEPEL, TRUITT AND WATSON, MARCH 11, 2013

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MARCH 11, 2013

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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.--[It  
12 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 an electronic benefits card issued to convey public  
15 assistance benefits administered by the Department of Public  
16 Welfare or a debit card issued to convey support payment

1 moneys.] (a) Notwithstanding Federal program standards,  
2 requirements or procedures, cash assistance benefits shall only  
3 be provided by a vendor through point-of-sale terminals which  
4 have been authorized by the department after a purchase has been  
5 made by the recipient.

6 (b) No exchange of cash may occur between the recipient and  
7 vendor.

8 (c) Cash assistance benefits may not be distributed through  
9 automated teller machines or similar devices.

10 (d) Cash assistance benefits shall only be used to obtain  
11 the following:

12 (1) Housing.

13 (2) Personal toiletries.

14 (3) Food, as specified under the guidelines for the  
15 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

16 (4) Clothing.

17 (5) Public transportation services.

18 (e) Cash assistance benefits may not be used for any of the  
19 following:

20 (1) To purchase tobacco products.

21 (2) To purchase a beverage with alcoholic content or an item  
22 with alcoholic content.

23 (3) To purchase lottery tickets or tickets for games of  
24 chance.

25 Section 2. Within 90 days of the effective date of this  
26 section, the Department of Public Welfare shall submit to the  
27 appropriate Federal agency a request for appropriate waiver of  
28 Federal law and for any other approval by the Federal Government  
29 necessary for the implementation of the programs added by this  
30 act. The department shall enter into good faith negotiations

1 with the appropriate Federal authorities and make every effort  
2 to obtain the necessary Federal waiver and approval.

3 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.