

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 184 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY D. MILLER, INNAMORATO, HILL-EVANS, MADDEN,
 SANCHEZ, BURGOS, RABB, HANBIDGE, KINSEY, KRAJEWSKI, CEPEDA-
 FREYTIZ, CIRESI, BULLOCK, DEASY, FIEDLER, KINKEAD AND OTTEN,
 MARCH 8, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MARCH 8, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 10, 1986 (P.L.1396, No.121), entitled
 2 "An act authorizing the use of State funds to expand a
 3 special supplemental food program for women, infants and
 4 children," further providing for definitions; and providing
 5 for Remote eWIC Reloading Pilot Program.

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

8 Section 1. Section 3 of the act of July 10, 1986 (P.L.1396,
 9 No.121), known as the Women's, Infants' and Children's Nutrition
 10 Improvement Act, is amended by adding definitions to read:

11 Section 3. Definitions.

12 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
 13 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
 14 context clearly indicates otherwise:

15 * * *

16 "eWIC card." The card issued to WIC eligibles for the
 17 purpose of purchasing allowed items through the WIC Program.

18 "eWIC program." The Remote eWIC Reloading Pilot Program

1 established under section 5.1.

2 * * *

3 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

4 Section 5.1. Remote eWIC Reloading Pilot Program.

5 (a) Establishment.--The Remote eWIC Reloading Pilot Program
6 is established as a pilot program within the department.

7 (b) Funding.--The department shall seek funding from the
8 General Fund to implement the eWIC program.

9 (c) Notice.--Upon the initial appropriation of sufficient
10 money to implement the eWIC program, the department shall
11 transmit notice of the appropriation to the Legislative
12 Reference Bureau for publication in the next available
13 Pennsylvania Bulletin.

14 (d) Eligibility.--Individuals who are deemed to be WIC
15 eligibles and who live in a county of the first class or a
16 county of the second class shall be eligible to participate in
17 the eWIC program.

18 (e) Administration.--The department shall administer the
19 eWIC program to empower WIC Program administrators in a county
20 of the first class or a county of the second class to
21 collaboratively develop a system that allows WIC funds to be
22 remotely reloaded onto eWIC cards administered to WIC eligibles.

23 The following apply:

24 (1) The department shall develop a remote eWIC system to
25 allow the virtual reloading of WIC funds onto eWIC cards for
26 the purpose of granting WIC eligibles the option of not
27 reporting in person to have money reloaded onto issued eWIC
28 cards.

29 (2) The department shall:

30 (i) Promulgate regulations necessary to implement

1 the eWIC program.

2 (ii) Seek any necessary waivers from the Federal
3 Government to implement the eWIC program.

4 (3) The eWIC program shall be operated for one year
5 following the effective date of this section.

6 (f) Report.--Within one year of the conclusion of the eWIC
7 program, the department shall publish and transmit a report to
8 the General Assembly on the eWIC program, which shall include,
9 at a minimum, the following information:

10 (1) The overall participation rate of WIC services in
11 each county that participated in the eWIC program.

12 (2) The participation and nonparticipation rates among
13 WIC eligibles in the eWIC program.

14 (3) The participation rates of other services available
15 to WIC eligibles that are offered to individuals who report
16 in person to have their eWIC cards reloaded.

17 (4) The estimated funding necessary to implement a
18 remote eWIC reloading system for all WIC eligibles residing
19 in this Commonwealth.

20 (5) Any limitations or logistical barriers that could
21 prevent WIC eligibles from participating in a remote eWIC
22 reloading system in this Commonwealth, including broadband
23 connectivity and program and technological infrastructure.

24 (6) Suggestions to address any limitations or logistical
25 barriers specified in paragraph (5), following input sought
26 by the department from public and private organizations using
27 best practices that relate to the improvement of WIC
28 services.

29 (g) Construction.--Nothing in this section shall prevent WIC
30 eligibles from continuing to report in person to have WIC funds

1 reloaded onto an issued eWIC card.

2 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 180 days.