

HOUSE BILL 227

By Howell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 71, Chapter 5, Part 1 and Title 71, Chapter 5,
Part 3, relative to benefit eligibility.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Program Integrity Act of 2017."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 51, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section to be appropriately designated:

On a monthly basis, the Tennessee education lottery corporation shall provide to the department of human services the following information of any individual collecting a prize of more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000):

- (1) Name;
- (2) Prize amount; and
- (3) Any other available identifying information.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 5, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) On at least a quarterly basis, the department of human services shall conduct data matches against information databases as required by federal law, including the following:

- (1) Earned and unearned income information maintained by the federal internal revenue service;

(2) Employer reports of income and unemployment insurance payment information maintained by the federal department of labor and workforce development;

(3) Earned income information maintained by the federal social security administration;

(4) Death register information maintained by the federal social security administration;

(5) Prisoner information maintained by the federal social security administration;

(6) Beneficiary records and earnings information maintained by the federal social security administration;

(7) Employment information maintained by the Tennessee department of labor and workforce development;

(8) Employment information regarding new hires maintained by the federal department of health and human services;

(9) Supplemental security income information maintained by the federal social security administration; and

(10) Veterans' benefits information maintained by the federal department of health and human services, in coordination with the Tennessee department of health and Tennessee department of veterans services.

(b) The department of human services may explore joining any multi-state cooperative for identifying individuals who currently receive benefits in other states, such as the National Accuracy Clearinghouse.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) Prior to awarding assistance, and on a quarterly basis thereafter, the bureau of TennCare shall verify identity information for each respective applicant and enrollee against the following:

- (1) Wage and income information maintained by state and federal sources;
- (2) Immigration status information maintained by federal citizenship and immigration services; and
- (3) Information maintained by the department of health, office of vital records.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not take effect until the last day of the first full quarter following implementation of an automated, electronic eligibility system by the bureau of TennCare. The bureau of TennCare shall notify the executive secretary of the code commission upon implementation of an automated, electronic eligibility system.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect December 1, 2017, the public welfare requiring it.