

SENATE BILL 948

By Campfield

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71,
relative public assistance benefits.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 3, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as new appropriately designated section:

71-3-1__.

(a) Pursuant to 7 U.S.C. § 2016(h)(9)(A), the department of human services shall request that the United States department of health and human services (DHHS) mandate the use of photo identification for continued eligibility in the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program administered in Tennessee. Upon six (6) months after approval of the request by FNS, the department shall issue a photo identification card to each eligible household as proof of temporary assistance eligibility. The photo identification card shall have the picture of the designated caretaker relative. Upon request, the caretaker relative, shall present the photo identification card at issuance points, retail stores or services when exchanging benefits for eligible items.

(b) The department shall promulgate rules for the use of the photo identification cards required under this section, including, but not limited to, whether the department shall:

(1) Issue separate photo identification cards to other eligible household members; or

(2) List such additional persons on the photo identification card issued to the caretaker relative.

(b) This law shall be interpreted to be consistent with any and all applicable federal laws.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 5, Part 3, is amended by adding the following lineage as new appropriately designated section:

71-5-3__.

(a) As used in this section:

"Head of Household" means the individual providing the primary support and maintenance for a family. This individual shall be the father, mother, grandfather or grandmother of any degree, brother or sister of the whole or half-blood, stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother, stepsister, aunt or uncle of any degree, first cousin, nephew or niece, the relatives by adoption within the previously named classes of persons, and the biological relatives within the previous degrees of relationship, and the legal spouses of persons within the previously named classes of persons, even if the marriage has been terminated by death or divorce, with whom a child is living.

(b) Pursuant to 7 C.F.R. 274.10(b), the department of human services shall request that the United States department of agriculture, food and nutrition services (FNS) mandate the use of photo identification for continued eligibility in the food stamp program administered in Tennessee. Upon six (6) months after approval of the request by FNS, the department shall issue a photo identification card to each eligible household as proof of food stamp eligibility. The photo identification card shall have the picture of whomever is designated as the head of household. Upon request, the head of household, shall present the photo identification card at issuance points, retail food stores or meal services when exchanging benefits for eligible food.

(c) The department shall promulgate rules for the use of the photo identification cards required under this section, including but not limited to whether the department shall:

(1) Issue separate photo identification cards to other eligible household members or the household's authorized representative; or

(2) List such additional persons on the photo identification card issued to the eligible household.

(d) This law shall be interpreted to be consistent with any and all applicable federal laws.

SECTION 3. The commissioner of human services is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect January 1, 2014, the public welfare requiring it.