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I N   S E N A T E

February 17, 2016

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Introduced by Sen. RITCHIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to amend the executive law and the general municipal law, in relation to the use of supplemental nutritional assistance program benefits and public benefit cards

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding two new sections  
2     163-b to 163-c to read as follows:

3     S 163-B. RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF PUBLIC BENEFIT CARDS. ANY STATE ENTITY  
4     THAT ISSUES A PUBLIC BENEFIT CARD TO AN INDIVIDUAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
5     SUBSIDIZING THE COST OF FOOD FOR SUCH PERSON OR HIS OR HER FAMILY, SHALL  
6     ENSURE THAT SUCH CARDS MAY ONLY BE USED TO PURCHASE FOOD AND BEVERAGE  
7     ITEMS THAT ARE NOT DEEMED LUXURY FOOD ITEMS BY THE OFFICE OF TEMPORARY  
8     AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND HAVE BEEN DECLARED EXEMPT FROM TAXATION BY  
9     THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE.

10    S 163-C. RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITIONAL ASSISTANCE  
11    PROGRAM BENEFITS. THE OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE  
12    SHALL ESTABLISH A LIST OF LUXURY FOOD ITEMS FOR WHICH THE USE OF SUPPLE-  
13    MENTAL NUTRITIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS OR PUBLIC BENEFIT CARDS  
14    UNDER SECTION ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE-B OF THIS ARTICLE AND SECTION  
15    TWENTY-FIVE OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW SHALL BE PROHIBITED.

16    S 2. The general municipal law is amended by adding a new section 25  
17    to read as follows:

18    S 25. RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF PUBLIC BENEFIT CARDS. ANY MUNICIPAL ENTI-  
19    TY THAT ISSUES A PUBLIC BENEFIT CARD TO AN INDIVIDUAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
20    SUBSIDIZING THE COST OF FOOD FOR SUCH PERSON OR HIS OR HER FAMILY, SHALL  
21    ENSURE THAT SUCH CARDS MAY ONLY BE USED TO PURCHASE FOOD AND BEVERAGE  
22    ITEMS THAT ARE NOT DEEMED LUXURY FOOD ITEMS BY THE OFFICE OF TEMPORARY  
23    AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND HAVE BEEN DECLARED EXEMPT FROM TAXATION BY  
24    THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE.

25    S 3. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
26    have become a law.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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