STATE OF NEW YORK

9749

IN ASSEMBLY

March 28, 2022

Introduced by M. of A. EICHENSTEIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Social Services

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to requiring that two electronic benefit transfer credit or debit cards be available to certain households receiving supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefits

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 21-a of the social services law, as added by section 144-a of part B of chapter 436 of the laws of 1997, is amended to read as follows:

1. **(a)** Any contract entered into on behalf of local social services districts for electronic benefit transfer services shall ensure that there are a sufficient number of access points in each local social services district to ensure an adequate distribution of such services. Upon implementation of an electronic benefit transfer system in a local social services district or in any political or other geographic subdivision of such district, the department shall publish a list identifying the number and location of access points within such district or subdivision, and shall seek and accept public comment on the adequacy of recipient access to electronic benefit transfer services within such district or subdivision. The department shall seek to maximize recipient access to electronic benefit transfer services by working with the contractor to establish access points at a broad range of businesses and community facilities including, but not limited to, community centers, senior citizen centers, educational and job skills training sites, and local housing authorities.

(b) The provisions of this paragraph shall apply to local social services districts located in a city having a population of one million or more persons. Any contract entered into on behalf of local social services districts for electronic benefit transfer services for supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefits shall ensure that at least two electronic benefit transfer credit or debit cards are authorized for use by any recipient household having more than one parent or

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

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guardian residing in the household on a full-time basis, provided that at least two parents or guardians residing in the household, or a combination thereof, qualify for benefits pursuant to this chapter. No card shall be issued to any person under the age of eighteen unless such person is a parent or guardian of a minor child. Cards issued pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph shall be linked to the same benefits account. The issuance of a second card shall not entitle the recipients to any additional benefits. Benefit recipients shall not be required to accept or utilize both cards. The department shall notify existing and future benefit recipients of the availability of multiple cards.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.