

HB 3240 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 3/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes requirement that replacement electronic benefits transfer card for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits display name of individual to whom card was issued. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Financial assistance benefits through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are delivered to recipients via an electronic benefits transfer (EBT) card, also called an Oregon Trail Card, which is similar to a debit card issued by a bank. The funds on the card may only be spent at participating retailers and may only be spent on certain eligible items. For instance, SNAP funds may only be spent on eligible food items, while TANF funds may be spent on nonfood items and may be withdrawn as cash.

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, the federal government enacted temporary provisions called Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) that allowed children who were eligible for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Act and certain younger children to receive food assistance benefits through EBT. Those provisions are expected to sunset later in 2023.

House Bill 2392 (2015) required that replacements for EBT cards that were reported lost or stolen must bear the name of the person to whom the card was issued. House Bill 3240 removes that requirement.