OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office of Research and Drafting

Legislative Budget Office

S.B. 315*
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by Senate Finance

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Schaffer and Craig

Jason Hoskins, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Appropriates $3 million in FY 2027 to support the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to transition to chip-enabled electronic benefit transfer cards used to provide benefits for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
- Requires the Department to use the appropriated funds to begin issuing new electronic benefit transfer cards that are chip-enabled and then to replace existing cards with chip-enabled cards under the Department's ordinary timeframe for replacing cards.
- Designates the bill's provisions as the "Enhanced Cybersecurity for SNAP Act."

DETAILED ANALYSIS

SNAP cybersecurity

Background

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) assists low-income households with purchasing food. Households participating in SNAP receive monthly benefit allotments that are provided through an electronic benefit transfer card, which can be used to purchase food in a similar manner to a debit card. In Ohio, the electronic benefit transfer card is known as the Ohio Direction Card.[1]

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the Senate Finance Committee appeared in the Senate Journal. Note that the legislative history may be incomplete.

[1] Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, What is the Ohio Direction Card.

Chip-enabled cards

The bill appropriates $3 million ($2,250,000 in general revenue funds) in FY 2027 for the Department of Job and Family Services to transition SNAP electronic benefit transfer cards to cards that are chip-enabled. In implementing the transition, the bill specifies that the Department must ensure that all new SNAP electronic benefit transfer cards are chip-enabled. Thereafter, the Department must replace all existing SNAP electronic benefit transfer cards with chip-enabled cards under the Department's ordinary timeframe for replacing electronic benefit transfer cards.[2]

Designation

The bill designates its provisions as the "Enhanced Cybersecurity for SNAP Act."[3]

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	11-04-25
Reported, S. Finance	---

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[2] Sections 1, 2, and 3.

[3] Section 4.