**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 43‑5‑255 SO AS TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO MANAGE THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND TO ISSUE BENEFIT CARDS THAT INCLUDE A PHOTOGRAPH AND OTHER IDENTIFYING INFORMATION OF THE PERSON AUTHORIZED TO USE THE CARD.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 5, Title 43 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 43‑5‑255. (A) For purposes of this section, ‘SNAP’ means the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which is the federal food purchasing assistance program for low‑ and no‑income individuals created pursuant to the Food Stamp Act of 1977. The Department of Social Services shall serve as the single state agency designated to receive SNAP funding and manage the program. The provisions of this section, regulations promulgated to implement the provisions of this section, and department policy and procedure must be consistent with the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, and with federal regulations promulgated to implement that act.

(B)(1) The department shall issue a person who is eligible and certified to receive SNAP benefits an embossed and encoded SNAP benefits card that contains a color photograph of the person and the following information:

(a) the person’s full name, home address, and date of birth;

(b) a physical description of the person, including sex, height, weight, eye color, and hair color; and

(c) the person’s signature.

(2) The person shall select a personal identification number, which must be entered when the person makes an acceptable food purchase.

(C) The department shall promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this section.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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