



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 176**

February Session, 2006

House Bill No. 5534

*House of Representatives, March 28, 2006*

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. VILLANO of the 91st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF PHOTO IDENTIFICATION CARDS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17b-109 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

3 The Commissioner of Social Services [shall] may provide photo  
4 identification cards to recipients [in] of assistance under the temporary  
5 family assistance program [who receive assistance checks] and to  
6 heads of households and their authorized representatives in the food  
7 stamp program. The commissioner may contract with public or private  
8 organizations for the provision of such cards.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	17b-109
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**HS**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 07 \$	FY 08 \$
Department of Social Services	GF - Savings	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill allows rather than requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to issue photo identification to some departmental clients. Should DSS choose not to issue these cards, the department would realize savings of approximately \$11,000 annually.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

**OLR Bill Analysis  
HB 5534**

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF PHOTO IDENTIFICATION CARDS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.***

**SUMMARY:**

Current law requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to issue photo ID cards to people on two welfare programs: the Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) program and the Food Stamp program. This bill allows, rather than requires, DSS to issue the photo IDs. Since implementation of electronic benefit transfers in these programs, recipients now receive cash benefits through a magnetic swipe debit card at ATMs or use it at grocery stores to buy food. Neither of these transactions requires a photo ID card.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006

**BACKGROUND**

***TFA***

The TFA program is Connecticut's cash assistance component of the federally authorized TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) program, established by federal welfare reform in 1996. It is available to low-income families with children who meet certain income and asset limits. TFA generally provides 21 months of cash assistance, with up to two, six-month extensions, and a maximum 60-month limit on benefits. Able-bodied adults are expected to work, look for a job, or participate in work-related activity as a condition of receiving cash assistance.

***Food Stamp Program***

The federally funded Food Stamp Program, which the state

administers, provides supplemental food assistance to people on welfare and low-income families. To obtain food stamps, people must document their income, assets, expenses, and family situation. The amount they receive depends on their situation.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 16 Nay 0 (03/14/2006)