

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 268

H.P. 201

House of Representatives, January 31, 2017

An Act To Restrict Cash Access for Electronic Benefit Transfer Cards

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HANLEY of Pittston.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DILLINGHAM of Oxford, HANINGTON of Lincoln,
MALABY of Hancock, PICKETT of Dixfield, SUTTON of Warren, WHITE of Washburn,
Senator: DAVIS of Piscataquis.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §21, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 687, §3, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **4. Electronic benefits transfer system or EBT.** "Electronic benefits transfer
5 system" or "EBT" means a system for the delivery of benefits to recipients by means of
6 credit or debit card services, ~~automated teller machines~~, point of sale devices or access to
7 online systems for ~~the withdrawal of funds~~ or the processing of a payment for
8 merchandise or a service.

9 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §23, sub-§§1-A and 1-B** are enacted to read:

10 **1-A. Cash withdrawals prohibited.** A recipient may not redeem benefits received
11 through the EBT system for cash.

12 **1-B. Point of sale restrictions.** The department by rule shall establish a system to
13 electronically block the purchase through the EBT system of the products and services
14 listed in this section and in section 3763, subsection 11 at the point of sale.

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill provides that benefits received through the electronic benefits transfer
17 system may be redeemed only through purchase by electronic transfer and may not be
18 redeemed for cash. This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to
19 establish a rule to create a system that would limit purchases at the point of sale to those
20 goods and services allowed by law.