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State of Minnesota  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

EIGHTY-SIXTH  
SESSION

**HOUSE FILE No. 646**

February 9, 2009

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health Care and Human Services Policy and Oversight

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to human services; modifying MFIP electronic benefit transfers;  
1.3 directing commissioner to apply for demonstration project to give bonus for  
1.4 buying Minnesota-grown foods; amending Minnesota Statutes 2008, section  
1.5 256J.39, by adding subdivisions.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 256J.39, is amended by adding a  
1.8 subdivision to read:

1.9 Subd. 1a. **EBT cards; prohibited activities.** (a) MFIP recipients are prohibited  
1.10 from using MFIP monthly cash assistance payments issued in the form of an electronic  
1.11 benefits transfer to purchase tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, as defined in section  
1.12 340A.101, subdivision 2, or lottery tickets.

1.13 (b) MFIP recipients are prohibited from withdrawing MFIP monthly cash assistance  
1.14 payments issued in the form of an electronic benefits transfer from an automatic teller  
1.15 machine or from receiving cash back from vendors.

1.16 (c) MFIP recipients are prohibited from using MFIP monthly cash assistance  
1.17 payments issued in the form of an electronic benefits transfer at vendors located outside  
1.18 of Minnesota.

1.19 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 256J.39, is amended by adding a subdivision  
1.20 to read:

1.21 Subd. 1b. **EBT cards; photo identification required.** Cashiers at points-of-sale  
1.22 shall request photo identification when an MFIP electronic benefits transfer card is  
1.23 presented.

2.1       Sec. 3. **DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER; FOOD SUPPORT**  
2.2 **DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.**

2.3       The commissioner of human services shall apply to the United States Department  
2.4 of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service to conduct a demonstration project to give a  
2.5 credit to supplemental nutrition assistance program recipients who buy Minnesota-grown  
2.6 foods. The commissioner shall submit the application to the United States Department of  
2.7 Agriculture by October 1, 2009.