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## OLR Bill Analysis

### sSB 480

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING PREVENTING FRAUD IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND EXPRESSLY EXTENDING FRAUD AND CORRUPTION PENALTIES TO PUBLIC SERVANTS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to upgrade electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards used in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other state-administered benefit programs. DSS must upgrade the cards, within available appropriations, to use security chip technology to help track and prevent potentially fraudulent card use. The bill requires DSS to report by January 1, 2027, to the Human Services Committee on implementing the new security chip technology and any measurable effect on fraud prevention.

Under existing law, the state's penal code establishes various crimes related to bribery, including bribing or misleading a public servant and a public servant's receipt of a bribe. Under current law, a public servant includes government employees or officers, among others. The bill specifies that public servants include federal government employees or officers.

Relatedly, the bill specifies that public servants are among those subject to the state's False Claims Act. This law also applies to corporations, limited liability companies, firms, associations, organizations, partnerships, businesses, trusts, or other legal entities. The False Claims Act prohibits, among other things, making fraudulent claims for payment or approval by the state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/19/2026)