



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 371

February Session, 2026

Substitute Senate Bill No. 480

Senate, April 2, 2026

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. LESSER of the 9th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section, (1)
2 "electronic benefit transfer card" means a card through which recipients
3 of supplemental nutrition assistance and other state-administered
4 benefit programs access benefits, and (2) "security chip technology"
5 means technology that generates a unique, one-time encrypted code for
6 each transaction on a credit card. The Commissioner of Social Services,
7 within available appropriations, shall upgrade electronic benefit
8 transfer cards to utilize security chip technology to help track and
9 prevent potentially fraudulent uses of such cards.

10 (b) Not later than January 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Social
11 Services shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions of section
12 11-4a of the general statutes, with the joint standing committee of the

13 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human
14 services on (1) implementation of the new security chip technology, and
15 (2) any measurable effect on fraud prevention in the use of electronic
16 benefit transfer cards.

17 Sec. 2. Section 4-274 of the general statutes is repealed and the
18 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

19 As used in this section and section 4-275:

20 (1) "Knowing" and "knowingly" means that a person, with respect to
21 information: (A) Has actual knowledge of the information; (B) acts in
22 deliberate ignorance of the truth or falsity of the information; or (C) acts
23 in reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the information, without
24 regard to whether the person intends to defraud;

25 (2) "Claim" (A) means any request or demand, whether under a
26 contract or otherwise, for money or property and whether or not the
27 state has title to the money or property, that (i) is presented to an officer,
28 employee or agent of the state, or (ii) is made to a contractor, grantee or
29 other recipient, if the money or property is to be spent or used on the
30 state's behalf or to advance a state program or interest, and if the state
31 provides or has provided any portion of the money or property that is
32 requested or demanded, or if the state will reimburse such contractor,
33 grantee or other recipient for any portion of the money or property that
34 is requested or demanded, and (B) does not include a request or demand
35 for money or property that the state has paid to an individual as
36 compensation for state employment or as an income subsidy with no
37 restrictions on that individual's use of the money or property;

38 (3) "Person" means any [natural person] individual, including, but
39 not limited to, a public servant, as defined in section 53a-146, as
40 amended by this act, corporation, limited liability company, firm,
41 association, organization, partnership, business, trust or other legal
42 entity;

43 (4) "State" means the state of Connecticut, any agency or department

44 of the state or any quasi-public agency, as defined in section 1-120;

45 (5) "Obligation" means an established duty, whether fixed or not,
46 arising from (A) an express or implied contractual, grantor-grantee or
47 licensor-licensee relationship, (B) a fee-based or similar relationship, (C)
48 statute or regulation, or (D) the retention of an overpayment; and

49 (6) "Material" means having a natural tendency to influence, or be
50 capable of influencing, the payment or receipt of money or property.

51 Sec. 3. Section 53a-146 of the general statutes is repealed and the
52 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

53 For purposes of this part:

54 (1) An "official proceeding" is any proceeding held or which may be
55 held before any legislative, judicial, administrative or other agency or
56 official authorized to take evidence under oath, including any referee,
57 hearing examiner, commissioner or notary or other person taking
58 evidence in connection with any proceeding.

59 (2) "Benefit" means monetary advantage, or anything regarded by the
60 beneficiary as a monetary advantage, including benefit to any person or
61 entity in whose welfare the beneficiary is interested.

62 (3) "Public servant" is an officer or employee of government,
63 including the federal government, or a quasi-public agency, as defined
64 in section 1-120, elected or appointed, and any person participating as
65 advisor, consultant or otherwise, paid or unpaid, in performing a
66 governmental function.

67 (4) "Government" includes any branch, subdivision or agency of the
68 state or any locality within it.

69 (5) "Labor official" means any duly appointed or elected
70 representative of a labor organization or any duly appointed or elected
71 trustee or representative of an employee welfare trust fund.

72 (6) "Witness" is any person summoned, or who may be summoned,

73 to give testimony in an official proceeding.

74 (7) "Juror" is any person who has been drawn or summoned to serve
75 or act as a juror in any court.

76 (8) "Physical evidence" means any article, object, document, record or
77 other thing of physical substance which is or is about to be produced or
78 used as evidence in an official proceeding.

79 (9) "Person selected to be a public servant" means any person who
80 has been nominated or appointed to be a public servant.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2026	4-274
Sec. 3	July 1, 2026	53a-146

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

The title changed; and in Section 2(3) "natural person" was changed to "[natural person] individual".

HS Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	Approximately 4.6 million	Approximately 620,000
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Revenue Gain	Approximately 1.5 million	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a cost to the Department of Social Services (DSS) of approximately \$4.6 million in FY 27 and \$620,000 in FY 28 to upgrade Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other state-administered electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards with security chip technology.

FY 27 state costs include: 1) \$1 million in one-time expenditures to issue new EBT cards to all current cardholders; 2) \$3 million for DSS system modifications (with a corresponding federal grants revenue gain of \$1.5 million); 3) \$470,000 for the ongoing replacement of lost or stolen cards; 4) and \$150,000 for summer EBT issuance.

FY 28 costs include the ongoing \$470,000 for the replacement of lost or stolen cards and \$150,000 for summer EBT card issuance.

For reference, DSS has approximately 204,000 active EBT cardholders. In FY 25, the department issued 156,000 replacement cards due to loss or damage and provided an additional 30,000 cards for the

summer EBT program.

The bill also requires DSS to report on the implementation and fraud-prevention impact of new security chip technology by January 1, 2027 and includes various technical and clarifying changes, both of which have no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

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

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)