

**RESOLUTION NO. 207**

**REQUESTING THE ALBANY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO DETECT FRAUD IN THE USAGE OF ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER (EBT) CARDS**

Introduced: 5/9/11

By Ms. Lockart, Law Committee, Mr. Scavo, Ms. Benedict, Messrs. Carman, Clouse, Hoblock, Mendick, Tunny and Zeilman:

WHEREAS, The Albany County Department of Social Services was instrumental in uncovering a massive fraud involving Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Cards, and

WHEREAS, On Thursday, April 14 four Albany convenience stores were charged with grand larceny for stealing more than 6 million taxpayer dollars in a joint scheme with food stamp recipients, and

WHEREAS, This “cash for cards” scam allowed food stamp recipients to receive cash for half the value of their EBT Card while the store owner cashed the EBT Card in for its full value, and

WHEREAS, The \$6 million dollars were part of the U.S.D.A Food Stamp Program, a program designed to help those who are less fortunate feed their families to ensure proper nutrition and to allow their children not to go hungry, and

WHEREAS, Where it is the duty of this honorable body to protect the taxpayers against waste and fraud of their money, and to ensure that the needy are provided for, and to enable the Department of Social Services to properly ferret out such waste and fraud, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, This Honorable Body requests that the Department of Social Services develop a plan, including the implementation of the latest available technology, to detect EBT Card fraud, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this program shall be submitted to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Legislature within 60 days of the passing of this resolution, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Legislature is hereby directed to forward certified copies of said resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

*Referred to Social Services Committee. 5/9/11*

*Unfavorable Recommendation – Social Services Committee. 7/26/11*

*Referred to Law and Social Services Committees. 8/8/11*

*Without Recommendation – Social Services Committee. 8/23/11*

*Referred to Audit and Finance Committee. 10/11/11*