



Mark C. Flanders

*Bill Analysis*  
Legislative Service Commission

## **H.B. 566**

123rd General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps. Mead, Tiberi, Goodman, Jolivette, Terwilleger, Trakas, Jacobson,  
Netzley, Taylor, Hartnett**

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### **BILL SUMMARY**

- Requires the Director of Job and Family Services to establish a statewide automated finger imaging system to track participation in Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF) programs and prevent individuals from receiving assistance under more than one name.
- Requires the Director to apply to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for federal matching funds to be used to include the food stamp program in the system.
- Exempts certain categories of individuals from the requirement to submit to finger imaging.
- Makes an appropriation for implementing the system.

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### **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

#### **Statewide finger imaging system required**

(R.C. 5101.871, 5101.872, and 5101.875)

The bill requires the Director of Job and Family Services to establish a statewide automated finger imaging system by December 31, 2001. The purpose of the system is to track an individual's participation in Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF) programs and prevent the individual from receiving assistance from a TANF program under more than one name. The system applies to any programs created under the authority of Title IV-A of the federal Social Security Act, including Ohio Works First and the Prevention, Retention, and Contingency Program.

After implementing the system, the Director is to apply to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for federal matching funds to be used to include the food stamp program in the system. If matching funds are provided, the Director must expand the system to also track food stamp participation and prevent individuals from receiving stamps under more than one name.

The Director is required to adopt rules to implement the system.

**Submission to finger imaging; exemptions**

(R.C. 5101.87, 5101.873, and 5101.875)

After the system is implemented, the first time that TANF eligibility is determined or redetermined for an assistance group, each member of the group must submit to finger imaging as part of the determination or redetermination process. Similarly, if the system is expanded to cover food stamps, the first time that food stamp eligibility is determined or redetermined for a household, each member of the household must submit to finger imaging as part of the determination or redetermination process.

But the bill includes several categories of individuals that are exempt from the requirement to submit to finger imaging. The exemption applies to:

--Minor children, unless a county department of job and family services reasonably suspects that the child is receiving assistance from the program under a different name;<sup>1</sup>

--Residents of nursing homes;

--Individuals for whom the technology used in the system is unable to obtain an accurate finger image.

In addition, the Director of Job and Family Services is authorized to expand the exemption to include other categories of individuals the Director determines appropriate. The bill specifies that the Director can include homebound individuals in the exemption.

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<sup>1</sup> For the bill's purposes, a "minor child" means either (1) an individual who has not attained age 18, or (2) an individual who has not attained age 19 and is a full-time student in a secondary school or in the equivalent level of vocational or technical training. (R.C. 5107.02(E), not in the bill.)

**Agreements to share images**

(R.C. 5101.874)

The bill contemplates connecting the Ohio statewide automated finger imaging system with other systems to expand the ability of the systems to prevent individuals from receiving TANF or food stamp assistance under more than one name. For this purpose, the Director of Job and Family Services is authorized to enter into agreements to share finger images with the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture, and also with other states' administrative agencies for public assistance programs.

**Appropriation**

(Section 2)

The bill appropriates \$2.5 million from the General Revenue Fund for fiscal year 2001 to be used to implement the finger imaging system.

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**HISTORY**

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	02-01-00	p. 1582

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