



**New Hampshire Senate**

## **News Release**

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### **Senate approves bill to curb abuse of EBT cards**

*Bill would prohibit welfare dollars for gambling, tobacco, or alcohol*

**Concord, NH** – Senator Jeanie Forrester (R-Meredith) today hailed Senate passage of her legislation to address improper use of state-issued Electronic Benefit Transfer Cards (EBTs). Current law prohibits using the cards at state liquor stores, gambling establishments, and adult entertainment venues. Forrester’s bill would clarify that EBT recipients could not use the cards or cash from the cards on alcohol, tobacco, firearms, lottery tickets, or adult entertainment.

“78% of funds given out through EBT cards are withdrawn as cash, making it difficult to prevent fraud and abuse. This bill would clarify that recipients need to make responsible choices with dollars provided by taxpayers,” Forrester said.

Last year, the Senate approved similar legislation sponsored by Forrester by a vote of 20-3 before it stalled in the House of Representatives. The bill builds on a provision in the 2013 budget law that restricted use of EBT cards.

“When we spend taxpayer money to help those on public assistance, we have responsibility to both the taxpayers and to those receiving this critical assistance,” Forrester added. “By preventing abuse of EBT cards, we can ensure that this program is delivering help to those who need it. I thank my colleagues for supporting this important legislation.”

[SB 169](#)

[SB 203 \(2014\)](#)

[2014 Statement on EBT Reform](#)

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