



Washington Update



FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE ISSUES PROPOSED RULE ON SNAP EBT CARDS

The Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service has published a proposed rule providing clear parameters on requirements for photos on Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards and has started the 60-day comment period. States have the option to require that a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) EBT card contains a photo of one or more household members.

The existing program regulations further provide that a state that implements a photo on the EBT card shall establish procedures to ensure that any other appropriate member of the household or any authorized representative of the household may use the card. This proposed rule would provide clear parameters on these requirements. In addition, this rule proposes to amend program regulations

to codify guidance that was issued December 29, 2014, requiring states that intend to implement the photo EBT card option to submit a comprehensive implementation plan that addresses certain operational issues to ensure that state implementation is consistent with all federal requirements and that program access is protected for participating households.

The full notice and comment information can be found on the federal register at <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/01/06/2015-33053/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap-photo-electronic-benefit-transfer-ebt-card>.

IRS ISSUES NOTICE EXTENDING ACA INFORMATION REPORTING DEADLINE

On December 28, 2015, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service issued Notice 2016-4, which extends the due dates for the 2015 information reporting requirements for insurers, self-insuring employers, and certain other providers of minimum essential coverage under I.R.C. § 6055, and the information reporting requirements for applicable large employers under I.R.C. § 6056.

Specifically, the notice extends the due date for:

- Furnishing the 2015 Form 1095-B, *Health Coverage*, and the 2015 Form 1095-C, *Employer-Provided Health Insurance Offer and Coverage*, from January 31, 2016, until March 31, 2016.
- Filing with the IRS the 2015 Form 1094-B, *Transmittal of Health Coverage Information Returns*, the 2015 Form 1095-B, *Health Coverage*, the 2015 Form 1094-



C, *Transmittal of Employer-Provided Health Insurance Offer and Coverage Information Returns*, and the 2015 Form 1095-C, *Employer-Provided Health Insurance Offer and Coverage*, from February 29, 2016, to May 31, 2016 if not filing electronically, and from March 31, 2016, to June 30, 2016 if filing electronically.

This notice also provides guidance to individuals who, as a result of these extensions, might not receive a Form 1095-B or Form 1095-C by the time they file their 2015 tax returns.

The full notice can be found at <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/n-16-04.pdf>.

MSRB SEEKS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board is accepting applications for its Board of Directors. The board sets the strategic direction of the organization, makes policy decisions, authorizes rulemaking and market transparency initiatives, and oversees MSRB operations. The MSRB is seeking individuals knowledgeable about the municipal market to help craft policies on the regulation of financial professionals, market structure, and the MSRB's Electronic Municipal Market Access (EMMA) website. The MSRB board consists of 11 independent members that are representative of the public, including investors, municipal entities and other non-MSRB regulated individuals. The board also has 10 members that represent MSRB-regulated entities, including broker dealers, bank dealers and municipal advisors.

The MSRB is seeking applicants to fill four public and three regulated-entity positions, one of which is a municipal advisor. The seven board terms begin October 1, 2016.

To be considered for a position on the MSRB Board of Directors, submit an application, which is available on the [MSRB Board of Directors Application Portal](#), no later than February 19, 2016. Questions can be directed to Sara Majroh, manager, Corporate Governance, at (202) 838-1359 or at smajroh@msrb.org.

THE WEEKS AHEAD

Puerto Rico

The House Natural Resources Committee has scheduled two hearings this month to look at the failing economic and financial conditions in Puerto Rico.

January 12

On Tuesday, January 12 the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources will hold an oversight hearing entitled "Exploring Energy Challenges and Opportunities Facing Puerto Rico."

January 26 (tentative)

The second hearing by the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 26, and will discuss the strained financial condition of the commonwealth. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-WI) has said that he is directing relevant House committees to come up with a solution to the island territory's financial problems by the end of March.

SNAP Rules

January 12

The House Agriculture Subcommittee on Nutrition will conduct a hearing entitled "Past, Present, and Future of SNAP: Addressing Special Populations." More information can be found at <http://agriculture.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=3074>.

WASHINGTON STAFF

CORNELIA CHEBINOU
Washington Director
cchebinou@nasact.org

NEAL HUTCHKO
Policy Analyst
nhutchko@nasact.org

TANYA GRAYSON
Administrative Assistant
tgrayson@nasact.org

National Association of State
Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers

HEADQUARTERS OFFICE

449 Lewis Hargett Circle, Suite 290
Lexington, KY 40503-3590
P (859) 276-1147, F (859) 278-0507

WASHINGTON OFFICE

444 N. Capitol Street, NW, Suite 234
Washington, DC 20001
P (202) 624-5451, F (202) 624-5473
www.nasact.org

For more information on this newsletter's content, contact Cornelia Chebinou at cchebinou@nasact.org or (202) 624-5451.

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