



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

**Substitute Bill No. 480**



**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 Section 4-274 of the general statutes is repealed and the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	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	4-274
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	53a-146

- HS**      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*
- JUD**     *Joint Favorable*
- APP**     *Joint Favorable*