

Unofficial Draft Copy

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LCSC12

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(a) through a data match system, use information ~~in the~~ legally accessible possession of ^{by} the state, including electronic databases, to collect and verify applicant information in place of requiring applicants to submit documentation; and

(b) use technology that includes the use of online applications, electronic databases, document imaging, and other electronic content management tools; and ~~electronic signatures.~~

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(c) authorize electronic signatures in accordance with state standards.

(5) The department shall comply with this section by October 1, 2013."

{Internal References to 53-6-132: None.}

Section 2. Section 53-6-133, MCA, is amended to read:

"53-6-133. **Eligibility determination.** (1) The department ~~local office of public assistance~~ shall promptly determine the eligibility of each applicant under this part in accordance with the rules of the department. Each applicant must be informed of the right to a fair hearing and of the confidential nature of the information given. The department, ~~through the local office of public assistance,~~ shall, after the hearing, determine whether ~~or not~~ the applicant is eligible for assistance under this part, and aid must be furnished promptly to eligible persons. Each applicant must receive written ^{or electronic} notice of the decision concerning the applicant's application, and the right of appeal is secured to the applicant under the procedures of 53-2-606.

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(2) ~~The local office of public assistance and the~~ department may accept the federal social security administration's determination of eligibility for supplemental