

## Self-Checkout

**Discussion Leader: John Hannemann**

### **Overview:**

Smart WIC EBT Authorities are considering allowing Self-Checkouts as an option for purchases by WIC participants. Discussion will include gauging attendee interest in providing this service, WIC customer desire for this service, measures that exist or can be implemented to prevent unauthorized WIC purchases, least expensive brand (LEB) enforcement, testing, and developer system specification modifications.

### **Notes:**

1. Discussed concerns related to the implementation of self-checkout.
  - a. Office of Inspector General (OIG) policing.
  - b. Least Expensive Brands (LEB).
  - c. Split tender.
  - d. Weighted items.
2. Discussed current status and preference for self-checkout:
  - a. USDA indicated that one (1) online state (Michigan) is currently allowing self-checkout.
  - b. A show of hands indicated that Albertson's is the only store that is interested in implementing self-checkouts in the near future.
  - c. Four (4) of the five (5) smart WIC EBT authorities are amenable to implementing self-checkouts. Wyoming is reluctant to implement self-checkouts.
  - d. Texas Retailers Association representative expressed concern about some states wanting to implement self-checkout and some not.
  - e. Texas Retailers Association representative expressed concern about independents not being able to implement. This could give larger stores an advantage over the independents.
3. Discussed automating the Least Expensive Brand (LEB) verification.
  - a. Texas currently has some systems that have automated the LEB verification and do not require that from the cashiers.

- b. A developer expressed concern that this could slow down the lanes.
- c. Consensus appeared to be that this should not be mandated at this time because there are some technical issues that would need to be addressed and the change would require coding.
  - i. HEB's system utilizes automated LEB verification

**Summary:**

1. Stores and/or developers would like to see self-checkout as an option and not a requirement.
2. If the Authority has implemented LEB, the Authority may want to consider having the system regulate LEB and not cashier.
3. The Authorities are interested in input from the stores and/or developers related to self-checkout. Stores and/or developers must contact their respective Authority and receive approval prior to implementing self-checkout.
4. USDA will check with the online state that has implemented self-checkout to see what their lessons learned are and will verify if the state utilizes LEB.