
By: Chairman, Finance Committee (Departmental - Human Resources)

Requested: November 7, 1996

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 1997

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Food Stamp Benefits - Prohibited Acts - Penalties**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the penalties for fraud in connection with the food stamp
4 benefits program; and generally relating to the food stamp benefits program.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
6 Article 88A - Social Services Administration
7 Section 89
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
11 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

12 **Article 88A - Social Services Administration**

13 89.

14 (a) No unauthorized person may sell or purchase federal food stamp program
15 benefits.

16 (b) No person may knowingly buy or sell merchandise which has been purchased
17 with federal food stamp program benefits.

18 (c) [Any person violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor
19 and upon conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$1,000, or imprisonment not
20 exceeding six months, or both.]

21 (1) EVERY PERSON VIOLATING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION IN
22 WHICH THE VALUE OF THE MONEY OR GOODS INVOLVED IS \$500 OR MORE IS
23 GUILTY OF A FELONY AND UPON CONVICTION SHALL:

24 (I) MAKE FULL RESTITUTION OF THE MONEY OR GOODS
25 UNLAWFULLY RECEIVED; AND

26 (II) BE SUBJECT TO A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$10,000 OR
27 IMPRISONMENT FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED 5 YEARS OR BOTH.

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1 (2) EVERY PERSON VIOLATING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION IN
2 WHICH THE VALUE OF THE MONEY OR GOODS IS LESS THAN \$500 IS GUILTY OF A
3 MISDEMEANOR AND UPON A CONVICTION SHALL:

4 (I) MAKE FULL RESTITUTION OF THE MONEY OR GOODS
5 UNLAWFULLY RECEIVED; AND

6 (II) BE SUBJECT TO A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$1,000 OR
7 IMPRISONMENT FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED 3 YEARS OR BOTH.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 October 1, 1997.