



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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FOOD STAMP FRAUD

House Bill 4985

Sponsor: Rep. Deborah Whyman

Committee: Human Services & Children

Complete to 8-30-93

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4985 AS INTRODUCED 8-17-93

Under the Michigan Penal Code, it is a crime for a person to knowingly receive, purchase, possess, or transport food stamps or coupons other than as authorized by the federal Food Stamp or Child Nutrition acts. If the cumulative face value of the stamps or coupons is \$1,000 or less, the crime is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in jail, a fine of up to \$700, or both. If the cumulative face value of the stamps or coupons is more than \$1,000, the crime is a felony punishable by imprisonment for up to five years, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both. House Bill 4985 would amend the act to establish the following criminal sanctions:

**** If the face value of the stamps or coupons is \$100 or less, the person would be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in jail, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both. A second or subsequent conviction would be punishable by three months to one year in jail, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both.**

**** If the face value of the food stamps or coupons is more than \$100 but less than \$5,000, the person would be guilty of a felony, punishable by up to five years in prison, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both. A second or subsequent conviction would be punishable by six months to ten years in jail, a fine of up to \$25,000, or both.**

**** If the face value of the food stamps or coupons is more than \$5,000, the person would be guilty of a felony, punishable by up to 20 years in prison, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both.**

**** If food stamps or coupons of various values are obtained over a twelve-month period, the conduct could be considered one offense, and the values of the stamps or coupons combined to determine the level of the offense.**

MCL 750.300a

House Bill 4985 (8-30-93)