

LD4103160

HOUSE BILL NO. 211

Offered January 17, 1994

A BILL to amend and reenact § 63.1-124.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to unauthorized use of certain public assistance benefits; penalty.

Patron—Cooper

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 63.1-124.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 63.1-124.1. Unauthorized use of food stamps, electronic benefit transfer cards, and fuel assistance prohibited; penalties.

Whoever knowingly and with intent to defraud transfers, acquires, alters, *traffics in* or uses, or *aids or abets another person in transferring, acquiring, altering, trafficking in, using, or possessing* food stamps, *electronic benefit transfer cards* or benefits from fuel assistance programs, or possesses food coupons, ~~or~~ authorization to purchase cards, *electronic benefit transfer cards*, or ~~possesses~~ benefits from such fuel assistance programs in any manner not authorized by law shall be deemed guilty of larceny and, upon conviction thereof, be punished accordingly.

A violation of this section may be prosecuted either in the county or city where the public assistance was granted or in the county or city where the violation occurred.

2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment in state correctional facilities. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation is \$ 250,000.

INTRODUCED

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