

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3887

To amend of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 relating to punishment and compensation for the theft of supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits; and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 10, 2025

Mr. NUNN of Iowa introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 relating to punishment and compensation for the theft of supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits; and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “SNAP Anti-Theft and
5 Victim Compensation Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANDED INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE DE-**
2 **PARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE INSPECTOR**
3 **GENERAL.**

4 Section 16 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
5 (7 U.S.C. 2025) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(i) OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL COORDINA-
8 TION AUTHORITY.—

9 “(1) The Inspector General of the Department
10 of Agriculture shall have full authority to investigate
11 and coordinate multi-jurisdictional efforts to prevent,
12 detect, and prosecute theft, misuse, or fraudulent ac-
13 cessing of supplemental nutrition assistance program
14 benefits, including—

15 “(A) investigation of cyber-enabled benefit
16 theft, including skimming, cloning, phishing,
17 spoofing, and unauthorized access to EBT sys-
18 tems; Issuing subpoenas, executing warrants,
19 and initiating civil or criminal referrals;

20 “(B) issuance of subpoenas, executing war-
21 rants, and initiating civil or criminal referrals;

22 “(C) coordination with the Department of
23 Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation,
24 the Department of Homeland Security, the Se-
25 cret Service, State and local law enforcement,
26 and financial institutions;

1 “(D) requesting and receiving data from
2 State EBT processors and contracted vendors
3 for investigative purposes; and

4 “(E) participation in interagency cyber
5 task forces or fraud detection initiatives.

6 “(2) The Secretary of Agriculture may issue
7 rules, and allocate funds, necessary to support the
8 activities of the Inspector General under this sub-
9 section.”.

10 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO REIMBURSE STOLEN SNAP BENE-**
11 **FITS.**

12 Section 11 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
13 (7 U.S.C. 2020) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(y) REIMBURSEMENT FOR STOLEN BENEFITS.—.

16 “(1) States are authorized to use supplemental
17 nutrition assistance program benefit funds to reim-
18 burse households whose benefits are stolen due to no
19 fault of their own, including via skimming, cloning,
20 or other unauthorized electronic transfers.

21 “(2) Reimbursement shall be made in accord-
22 ance with guidance from the Secretary and shall not
23 affect the household’s monthly allotment or ongoing
24 eligibility.

25 “(3) The Secretary shall—

1 “(A) provide technical assistance to States
2 for fraud detection and claims validation;

3 “(B) maintain a centralized reporting
4 database for benefit theft incidents;

5 “(C) require States to submit annual data
6 on benefit theft and reimbursements.

7 “(4) The Secretary shall promulgate regulations
8 as necessary to carry out this subsection.

9 “(5) The Secretary shall review the necessity of
10 this authority once all States have successfully up-
11 graded to secure payment technologies.”.

12 **SEC. 4. . CIVIL PENALTY FOR THEFT OF SNAP BENEFITS.**

13 Section 15 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
14 (7 U.S.C. 2024) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(g) CIVIL PENALTY FOR THEFT OF SUPPLEMENTAL
17 NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS.—.

18 “(1) Any person who knowingly accesses, uses,
19 or transfers supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
20 gram benefits issued to household without authoriza-
21 tion shall be liable to the United States for a civil
22 penalty in an amount equal to twice the value of the
23 benefits stolen.

24 “(2) The Secretary may assess and enforce this
25 penalty through an administrative proceeding under

1 section 14 or through a civil action in a district
2 court of the United States.

3 “(3) Funds recovered under this subsection
4 shall be used, as determined by the Secretary, to off-
5 set the cost of reimbursing victims of benefit theft
6 and the cost of the enhanced investigatory authority
7 of the Inspector General of the Department of Agri-
8 culture.

9 “(4) A civil penalty imposed under this sub-
10 section shall be in addition to any other civil or
11 criminal penalty imposed under any other provision
12 of this Act or under any other provision of law.”.

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