

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4366

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Social Security to take certain actions ensure that food stamp benefits are not provided for deceased individuals; and to amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to require State agencies to verify that such benefits are not provided for such individuals.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 1998

Mr. GOODLATTE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Social Security to take certain actions ensure that food stamp benefits are not provided for deceased individuals; and to amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to require State agencies to verify that such benefits are not provided for such individuals.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Food Stamp Verifica-  
3 tion Act of 1998”.

4 **SEC. 2. AGREEMENT TO BE ENTERED INTO BY THE SEC-  
5 RETARY OF AGRICULTURE.**

6 The Secretary of Agriculture (in this section referred  
7 to as the “Secretary”) shall enter into an agreement with  
8 the Commissioner of Social Security (in this section re-  
9 ferred to as the “Commissioner”) that provides that the  
10 Commissioner shall establish a cooperative arrangement  
11 that meets the requirements of section 205(r)(3)(A) of the  
12 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)(3)(A)), with each  
13 State agency (as defined in section 3(n) of the Food  
14 Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2012(n))) that administers  
15 the food stamp program (as defined in section 3(h) of the  
16 Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2012(h))) under  
17 which—

18 (1) the State agency shall provide information  
19 to the Commissioner, in such form and manner as  
20 the Commissioner determines necessary, regarding  
21 individuals receiving benefits under the food stamp  
22 program; and

23 (2) the Commissioner shall compare informa-  
24 tion received under section 205(r)(1) of the Social  
25 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)(1)) with information

1       obtained under paragraph (1) and shall notify the  
2       State agency of the individuals who are deceased.

3       (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days, 1 year, and  
4       18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
5       Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to—

6               (1) the Committee on Agriculture of the House  
7       of Representatives;

8               (2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
9       and Forestry of the Senate;

10              (3) the Committee on Ways and Means of the  
11      House of Representatives;

12              (4) the Committee on Finance of the Senate;  
13      and

14              (5) the Secretary of the Treasury;

15      a report regarding the progress and effectiveness, during  
16      the respective period for which such report is submitted,  
17      of the cooperative arrangements established under sub-  
18      section (a) with State agencies.

19      **SEC. 3. PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO ENSURE**  
20                      **NONISSUANCE OF FOOD STAMP COUPONS**  
21                      **FOR DECEASED INDIVIDUALS.**

22              Section 11(e)(20) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7  
23      U.S.C. 2020(e)(20)) is amended—

24              (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at  
25      the end;

1           (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period  
2           at the end and inserting “; and”; and

3           (3) by adding at the end the following:

4                   “(C) to provide such information to the  
5           Commissioner of Social Security as the Com-  
6           missioner determines is necessary to enable the  
7           Commissioner to use the information provided  
8           under the arrangement established under sec-  
9           tion 2 of the Food Stamp Verification Act of  
10           1998 to verify and otherwise ensure that cou-  
11           pons are not issued for deceased individuals;”.

12 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

13           This Act and the amendments made by this Act take  
14           effect 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

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