

105<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 1733

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## AN ACT

To amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to require food stamp State agencies to take certain actions to ensure that food stamp coupons are not issued for deceased individuals, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study of options for the design, development, implementation, and operation of a national database to track participation in Federal means-tested public assistance programs, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. DENIAL OF FOOD STAMPS FOR DECEASED IN-**  
2 **DIVIDUALS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 11 of the Food Stamp Act  
4 of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2020) is amended by adding at the end  
5 the following:

6 “(r) DENIAL OF FOOD STAMPS FOR DECEASED INDI-  
7 VIDUALS.—Each State agency shall—

8 “(1) enter into a cooperative arrangement with  
9 the Commissioner of Social Security, pursuant to the  
10 authority of the Commissioner under section  
11 205(r)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
12 405(r)(3)), to obtain information on individuals who  
13 are deceased; and

14 “(2) use the information to verify and otherwise  
15 ensure that benefits are not issued to individuals  
16 who are deceased.”.

17 (b) REPORT.—Not later than September 1, 2000, the  
18 Secretary of Agriculture shall submit a report regarding  
19 the progress and effectiveness of the cooperative arrange-  
20 ments entered into by State agencies under section 11(r)  
21 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2020(r)) (as  
22 added by subsection (a)) to—

23 (1) the Committee on Agriculture of the House  
24 of Representatives;

25 (2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
26 and Forestry of the Senate;

1           (3) the Committee on Ways and Means of the  
2 House of Representatives;

3           (4) the Committee on Finance of the Senate;  
4 and

5           (5) the Secretary of the Treasury.

6           (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amend-  
7 ments made by this section take effect on June 1, 2000.

8 **SEC. 2. STUDY OF NATIONAL DATABASE FOR FEDERAL**  
9 **MEANS-TESTED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PRO-**  
10 **GRAMS.**

11           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall  
12 conduct a study of options for the design, development,  
13 implementation, and operation of a national database to  
14 track participation in Federal means-tested public assist-  
15 ance programs.

16           (b) ADMINISTRATION.—In conducting the study, the  
17 Secretary shall—

18           (1) analyze available data to determine—

19                   (A) whether the data have addressed the  
20 needs of the food stamp program established  
21 under the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.  
22 2011 et seq.);

23                   (B) whether additional or unique data need  
24 to be developed to address the needs of the food  
25 stamp program; and

1 (C) the feasibility and cost-benefit ratio of  
2 each available option for a national database;

3 (2) survey the States to determine how the  
4 States are enforcing the prohibition on recipients re-  
5 ceiving assistance in more than 1 State under Fed-  
6 eral means-tested public assistance programs;

7 (3) determine the functional requirements of  
8 each available option for a national database; and

9 (4) ensure that all options provide safeguards  
10 to protect against the unauthorized use or disclosure  
11 of information in the national database.

12 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
13 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to  
14 Congress a report on the results of the study conducted  
15 under this section.

16 (d) FUNDING.—Out of any moneys in the Treasury  
17 not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury  
18 shall provide to the Secretary of Agriculture \$500,000 to  
19 carry out this section. The Secretary shall be entitled to

- 1 receive the funds and shall accept the funds, without fur-
- 2 ther appropriation.

Passed the Senate October 14 (legislative day, October 2), 1998.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

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