

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1499

By: Thomas, Caldwell,
Coleman, Monks, Cox,
Kirby, Campbell,
Roberts, Johnson (Rob)
and Maddux (Elmer) of
the House

and

Helton and Fisher of the
Senate

An Act relating to poor persons and criminal procedure; amending 56 O.S. 1991, Section 243, which relates to food stamps; authorizing certain cards or other devices for participation; making certain actions unlawful; specifying penalty; defining terms; amending 22 O.S. 1991, Section 1402, which relates to the Oklahoma Corrupt Organizations Prevention Act; modifying term; directing the Department of Human Services to develop certain program; restricting implementation of program; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 56 O.S. 1991, Section 243, is amended to read as follows:

Section 243. A. No person shall obtain or attempt to obtain, or aid, abet or assist any person to obtain, by means of a false statement or representation, or by false impersonation, or by a fictitious transfer, conveyance or encumbrance of property or income, or by a knowing and willful failure to report to the Department income, personal property, real property, household members, or other material eligibility factors at the time of application or during receipt of assistance, or other fraudulent device, food stamps or coupons or any card or other device authorizing participation in the food stamp program to which an applicant for food stamps or coupons or other device is not entitled or a greater amount of food stamps or coupons than that which an applicant for food stamps or coupons or other device is justly entitled or acquire, possess, use or transfer food stamps or coupons or any card or other device authorizing participation in the food stamp program except as authorized by this act and the rules and regulations of the Oklahoma Public Welfare Commission, nor shall any person acquire or transfer food stamps or coupons or any card or other device authorizing participation in the food stamp program except in exchange for food or food products for human consumption, which shall not be construed as including alcoholic beverages, tobacco, beer containing not more than three and two-tenths percent (3.2%) of alcohol by weight or imported foods. Any person, firm or corporation who violates any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, if the aggregate amount of food stamps

~~or~~, coupons or other device obtained or transferred is Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or less, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or be imprisoned for not more than three (3) months or both ~~se~~ fined and imprisoned in the discretion of the court; or shall be guilty of a felony, if the aggregate amount of food stamps ~~or~~, coupons or other device obtained or transferred is in excess of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) or be imprisoned in the penitentiary for a term not more than two (2) years or by both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court. Any store which allows purchases of prohibited items shall not be allowed to participate in the program.

B. Any person, firm or corporation who knowingly traffics in food stamps or coupons of an aggregate value of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) or less shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), by imprisonment in the county jail for a term of not more than three (3) months, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Any person, firm or corporation who knowingly traffics in food stamps or coupons of an aggregate value exceeding One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), or any card or other device authorizing participation in the food stamp program, shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a felony, punishable by a fine of not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), by imprisonment in the State Penitentiary for a term of not more than two (2) years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

C. As used in this section, "traffic in food stamps" means to illegally transport, transfer, sell, barter or otherwise dispose of food stamps or coupons, or any card or other device authorizing participation in the food stamp program, to another, as consideration for anything of value or to make or obtain control of food stamps or coupons, or any card or other device authorizing participation in the food stamp program with intent to illegally transport, transfer, sell, barter or dispose of such food stamp, coupon, card or other device.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 22 O.S. 1991, Section 1402, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1402. As used in the Oklahoma Corrupt Organizations Prevention Act:

1. "Beneficial interest" includes:
 - a. the interest of a person as a beneficiary pursuant to a trust, in which the trustee holds legal title to personal or real property, or
 - b. the interest of a person as a beneficiary pursuant to any other arrangement under which any other person holds legal title to personal or real property for the benefit of such person.

The term beneficial interest does not include the interest of a stockholder in a corporation or the interest of a partner in either a general or limited partnership;

2. "Enterprise" includes any individual, sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, trust, governmental entity, or other legal entity, or any union, association, unincorporated association or group of persons, associated in fact although not a legal entity, involved in any lawful or unlawful project or undertaking;

3. "Innocent party" includes bona fide purchasers and victims; 4. "Lie

5. "Pattern of racketeering activity" means two or more occasions of conduct:

- a. that include each of the following:
 - (1) constitute racketeering activity,

- (2) are related to the affairs of the enterprise,
 - (3) are not isolated, and
 - (4) are not so closely related to each other and connected in point of time and place that they constitute a single event, and
- b. where each of the following is present:
- (1) at least one of the occasions of conduct occurred after November 1, 1988,
 - (2) the last of the occasions of conduct occurred within three (3) years, excluding any period of imprisonment served by any person engaging in the conduct, of a prior occasion of conduct, and
 - (3) for the purposes of Section 1403 of this title each of the occasions of conduct constituted a felony pursuant to the laws of this state;
6. "Pecuniary value" means:
- a. anything of value in the form of money, a negotiable instrument, or a commercial interest, or anything else, the primary significance of which is economic advantage, or
 - b. any other property or service that has a value in excess of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00);
7. "Person" means any individual or entity holding or capable of holding a legal or beneficial interest in property;
8. "Personal property" includes any personal property, or any interest in such personal property, or any right, including bank accounts, debts, corporate stocks, patents or copyrights. Personal property and beneficial interest in personal property shall be deemed to be located where the trustee, the personal property, or the instrument evidencing the right is located;
9. "Principal" means a person who engages in conduct constituting a violation of the Oklahoma Corrupt Organizations Prevention Act or who is legally accountable for the conduct of another who engages in a violation of the Oklahoma Corrupt Organizations Prevention Act;
10. "Racketeering activity" means engaging in, attempting to engage in, conspiring to engage in, or soliciting, coercing, or intimidating another person to engage in any conduct which is chargeable or indictable as constituting a felony violation of one or more of the following provisions of the Oklahoma Statutes, regardless of whether such act is in fact charged or indicted:
- a. relating to homicide pursuant to the provisions of Sections 651, 652, 653, 701.7, 701.8, 701.16, 711 or 716 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes or relating to concealment of homicidal death pursuant to the provisions of Section 543 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
 - b. relating to kidnapping pursuant to the provisions of Sections 741, 745, 891 or 1119 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
 - c. relating to sex offenses pursuant to the provisions of Sections 886, 888, 1021, 1021.2, 1021.4, 1024.2, 1040.51, 1111, 1111.1, 1114 or 1123 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
 - d. relating to bodily harm pursuant to the provisions of Sections 645, 650, 650.2, 1289.16, 1302, 1303 or 1767.1 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
 - e. relating to theft, where the offense constitutes a felony, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 1704, 1707, 1708, 1709, 1710, 1711, 1713, 1716, 1719, 1720,

- 1721, 1722, 1723 or 1731 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
- f. relating to forgery pursuant to the provisions of Sections 1561, 1562, 1571, 1572, 1574, 1575, 1577, 1578, 1579, 1580, 1581, 1582, 1583, 1584, 1585, 1586, 1587, 1588, 1589, 1590, 1591 or 1593 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
 - g. relating to robbery pursuant to the provisions of Sections 797, 800 or 801 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
 - h. relating to burglary pursuant to the provisions of Sections 1431, 1435 or 1437 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
 - i. relating to arson pursuant to the provisions of Sections 1368, 1401, 1402, 1403 or 1404 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
 - j. relating to use or possession of a firearm or other offensive weapon while committing or attempting to commit a felony pursuant to the provisions of Sections 1287, 1289.20 or 1289.21 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
 - k. relating to gambling pursuant to the provisions of Sections 941, 942, 944, 945, 946, 948, 954, 956, 957, 962, 969, 970, 971, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 991, 992, 995.7, 995.8, 995.11 or 995.12 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
 - l. relating to bribery in contests pursuant to the provisions of Sections 399 or 400 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
 - m. relating to interference with public officers pursuant to the provisions of Sections 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 443, 444, 521, 522, 532, 540, 543, 545 or 546 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
 - n. relating to interference with judicial procedure pursuant to the provisions of Sections 388, 453, 455, 456, 491, 496 or 504 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
 - o. relating to official misconduct pursuant to the provisions of Sections 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 389, 390, 950 or 976 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
 - p. relating to the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act, where the offense constitutes a felony, pursuant to the provisions of Section 2-101 et seq. of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
 - q. relating to automobile theft pursuant to the provisions of Sections 4-102, 4-103, 4-107, 4-108, 4-109 or 4-110 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
 - r. relating to embezzlement pursuant to the provisions of Section 1412 of Title 6 of the Oklahoma Statutes, Section 641 of Title 19 of the Oklahoma Statutes, Sections 341, 531, 1451, 1452, 1453, 1454, 1455, 1456, 1463 or 1464 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes, Section 163.4 of Title 37 of the Oklahoma Statutes, Section 25 of Title 41 of the Oklahoma Statutes, Section 114 of Title 64 of the Oklahoma Statutes or Sections 506 or 1361 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
 - s. relating to extortion, where the offense constitutes a felony, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 1304,

- 1481, 1482, 1485, 1486 or 1488 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
- t. relating to fraud, where the offense constitutes a felony, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 208.6, 208.7 or 208.8 of Title 3A of the Oklahoma Statutes, Section 552.18 of Title 18 of the Oklahoma Statutes, Sections 358, 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1503, 1521, 1541.1, 1541.3, 1542, 1543, 1544, 1550.2, 1550.22, 1550.23, 1550.24, 1550.25, 1550.26, 1550.27, 1550.28, 1550.29, 1550.30, 1550.31, 1550.32, 1632, 1635 or 1662 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes, Section 243 of Title 56 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or Section 604 of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
 - u. relating to conspiracy, where the offense constitutes a felony, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 421, 422 or 424 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
 - v. relating to prostitution, pornography or obscenity pursuant to the provisions of Sections 1021, 1040.52, 1081, 1085, 1086, 1087 or 1088 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
 - w. relating to the Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Control Act, where the offense constitutes a felony, pursuant to the provisions of Section 506.1 et seq. of Title 37 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
 - x. relating to the Oklahoma Securities Act, where the offense constitutes a felony, pursuant to the provisions of Section 1 et seq. of Title 71 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or
 - y. relating to trafficking in children pursuant to the provisions of Sections 866 and 867 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

In addition, "racketeering activity" may be proven by proof of engaging in, attempting to engage in, conspiring to engage in, or soliciting, coercing, or intimidating another person to engage in any of the above described conduct within another state, regardless of whether said conduct is chargeable or indictable in that state.

11. "Real property" means any real property or any interest in real property, including any lease of, or mortgage upon real property. Real property and beneficial interest in real property shall be deemed to be located where the real property is located;

12. "Trustee" includes trustees, a corporate as well as a natural person and a successor or substitute trustee in accordance with the Oklahoma Trust Act, Section 175.1 et seq. of Title 60 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

13. "Unlawful debt" means any money or other thing of value constituting principal or interest of a debt that is unenforceable in the courts of Oklahoma, because the debt was incurred or contracted in violation of a law relating to the business of gambling activity or in violation of federal or state law but does not include any debt owed to a bank, savings and loan association, credit union or supervised lender licensed by the Oklahoma Administrator of Consumer Credit or to any debt referred or assigned to a debt collection agency, which referral or assignment is accepted in good faith by the debt collection agency as a debt collectible under the Uniform Commercial Code or other laws of this state and enforceable in the courts of this state.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 241.1 of Title 56, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Department of Human Services shall develop an electronic benefit identification program as authorized by the United States Department of Agriculture to expediently and accurately determine the eligibility of and extent or limit of benefits of clients, and to service providers and other persons providing consumer-related goods to food stamp recipients and to recipients of other assistance programs. Said system shall not be implemented until it is determined to be cost-neutral to the state and shall become effective only upon the awarding of a contract with a vendor selected by competitive bid with the State of Oklahoma.

SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the House of Representatives the 29th day of April, 1993.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 20th day of April, 1993.

President of the Senate