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**SENATE BILL 5531**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senator Padden

Read first time 01/23/19. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing criminal penalties for  
2 unauthorized use, presentation, transfer, or acquisition of  
3 supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits; amending RCW  
4 9.91.140, 9.91.142, and 9.91.144; adding a new section to chapter  
5 9.91 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 9.91 RCW  
8 to read as follows:

9 A person who knowingly uses, presents, transfers, acquires, or  
10 possesses unauthorized supplemental nutrition assistance program  
11 benefits as defined by federal law, Title 7 U.S.C. Sec. 2011 et seq.,  
12 is guilty of the following:

13 (1) A class C felony punishable according to chapter 9A.20 RCW if  
14 the face value of the benefits exceeds seven hundred fifty dollars;  
15 or

16 (2) A gross misdemeanor if the face value of the benefits is  
17 seven hundred fifty dollars or less.

18 **Sec. 2.** RCW 9.91.140 and 2003 c 53 s 49 are each amended to read  
19 as follows:

1 A person who sells ~~((food stamps))~~ supplemental nutrition  
2 assistance program benefits obtained through the program established  
3 under RCW 74.04.500 ~~((or food stamp benefits transferred~~  
4 ~~electronically))~~, or food purchased therewith, is guilty of the  
5 following:

6 (1) A gross misdemeanor if the value of the ~~((stamps))~~  
7 ~~benefits((r))~~ or food transferred exceeds ~~((one hundred))~~ seven  
8 hundred fifty dollars; or

9 (2) A misdemeanor if the value of the ~~((stamps))~~ ~~benefits((r))~~  
10 or food transferred is ~~((one hundred))~~ seven hundred fifty dollars or  
11 less.

12 **Sec. 3.** RCW 9.91.142 and 2003 c 53 s 50 are each amended to read  
13 as follows:

14 A person who purchases, or who otherwise acquires and sells, or  
15 who traffics in, ~~((food stamps))~~ supplemental nutrition assistance  
16 program benefits as defined by ~~((the))~~ federal ~~((food stamp act, as~~  
17 ~~amended,))~~ law, Title 7 U.S.C. Sec. 2011 et seq., ~~((or food stamp~~  
18 ~~benefits transferred electronically,))~~ is guilty of the following:

19 (1) A class C felony punishable according to chapter 9A.20 RCW if  
20 the face value of the ~~((stamps or))~~ benefits exceeds ~~((one hundred))~~  
21 seven hundred fifty dollars; or

22 (2) A gross misdemeanor if the face value of the ~~((stamps or))~~  
23 benefits is ~~((one hundred))~~ seven hundred fifty dollars or less.

24 **Sec. 4.** RCW 9.91.144 and 2003 c 53 s 51 are each amended to read  
25 as follows:

26 A person who, in violation of 7 U.S.C. Sec. 2024(c), obtains and  
27 presents ~~((food stamps))~~ supplemental nutrition assistance program  
28 benefits as defined by ~~((the))~~ federal ~~((food stamp act, as~~  
29 ~~amended,))~~ law, Title 7 U.S.C. Sec. 2011 et seq., ~~((or food stamp~~  
30 ~~benefits transferred electronically,))~~ for redemption or causes such  
31 ~~((stamps or))~~ benefits to be presented for redemption through the  
32 program established under RCW 74.04.500 is guilty of a class C felony  
33 punishable according to chapter 9A.20 RCW.

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