

1 AN ACT concerning criminal law.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Criminal Code of 1961 is amended by changing  
5 Section 17-6 as follows:

6 (720 ILCS 5/17-6) (from Ch. 38, par. 17-6)

7 Sec. 17-6. State Benefits Fraud. (a) Any person who obtains  
8 or attempts to obtain money or benefits from the State of  
9 Illinois, from any political subdivision thereof, or from any  
10 program funded or administered in whole or in part by the State  
11 of Illinois or any political subdivision thereof through the  
12 knowing use of false identification documents or through the  
13 knowing misrepresentation of his age, place of residence,  
14 number of dependents, marital or family status, employment  
15 status, financial status, or any other material fact upon which  
16 his eligibility for or degree of participation in any benefit  
17 program might be based, is guilty of State benefits fraud.

18 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of State law to the  
19 contrary, every application or other document submitted to an  
20 agency or department of the State of Illinois or any political  
21 subdivision thereof to establish or determine eligibility for  
22 money or benefits from the State of Illinois or from any  
23 political subdivision thereof, or from any program funded or  
24 administered in whole or in part by the State of Illinois or  
25 any political subdivision thereof, shall be made available upon  
26 request to any law enforcement agency for use in the  
27 investigation or prosecution of State benefits fraud or for use  
28 in the investigation or prosecution of any other crime arising  
29 out of the same transaction or occurrence. Except as otherwise  
30 permitted by law, information disclosed pursuant to this  
31 subsection shall be used and disclosed only for the purposes  
32 provided herein. The provisions of this Section shall be

1 operative only to the extent that they do not conflict with any  
2 federal law or regulation governing federal grants to this  
3 State.

4 (c) Any employee of the State of Illinois or any agency or  
5 political subdivision thereof may seize as evidence any false  
6 or fraudulent document presented to him in connection with an  
7 application for or receipt of money or benefits from the State  
8 of Illinois, from any political subdivision thereof, or from  
9 any program funded or administered in whole or in part by the  
10 State of Illinois or any political subdivision thereof.

11 (d) (1) State benefits fraud is a Class 4 felony except  
12 when more than \$300 is obtained, in which case State benefits  
13 fraud is a Class 3 felony.

14 (2) State benefits fraud is a Class 3 felony when \$300 or  
15 less is obtained and a Class 2 felony when more than \$300 is  
16 obtained if a person knowingly misrepresents oneself as a  
17 veteran or as a dependent of a veteran with the intent of  
18 obtaining benefits or privileges provided by the State or its  
19 political subdivisions to veterans or their dependents. For the  
20 purposes of this paragraph (2), benefits and privileges  
21 include, but are not limited to, those benefits and privileges  
22 available under the Veterans' Employment Act, the Viet Nam  
23 Veterans Compensation Act, the Prisoner of War Bonus Act, the  
24 War Bonus Extension Act, the Military Veterans Assistance Act,  
25 the Veterans' Employment Representative Act, the Veterans  
26 Preference Act, the Service Member's Employment Tenure Act, the  
27 Disabled Veterans Housing Act, the Under Age Veterans Benefits  
28 Act, the Survivors Compensation Act, the Children of Deceased  
29 Veterans Act, the Veterans Burial Places Act, the Higher  
30 Education Student Assistance Act, or any other loans,  
31 assistance in employment, monetary payments, or tax exemptions  
32 offered by the State or its political subdivisions for veterans  
33 or their dependents.

34 (Source: P.A. 82-999.)