

Stiffer Penalties Proposed For Food Stamp Abusers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Food stamp abusers will get stiffer disqualification penalties under a proposal announced by Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Mary C. Jarratt.

Delegation To Visit China

RALIEGH—A delegation of 22 state and local health officials, under the leadership of State Health Director Dr. Ronald Levine, will travel to the People's Republic of China this month to discuss health issues with leading Chinese health experts, Levine announced today. This mission will be under the sponsorship of the Eisenhower People-To-People Foundation.

He said delegates have accepted an invitation from China's Ministry of Health to exchange ideas on health issues facing both countries. The group will leave for China on July 12 and is scheduled to visit health facilities in Peking, Chengdu, Hohhot, Xian and Shanghai.

Levine said the members of the delegation, which include physicians and other health officials from all over North Carolina, will pay their own expenses for the trip. "Each and every member is tremendously excited over the opportunity to share views on the organization and delivery of health services with the Chinese government representatives who are their counterparts," he said.

Among those on the trip will be Mrs. Jo Ann P. Foreman, director of Northeastern Division for Human Development, Elizabeth City.

Social Security

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provision was added to the Social Security law in 1972 and was first used in 1975 when benefits increased by 8 per cent.

Since then benefits have increased 6.4 per cent in 1976, 5.9 per cent in 1977, 6.5 per cent in 1978, 9.9 per cent in 1979, 14.3 per cent in 1980, and 11.2 per cent in 1981.

Rec Report

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of fraud will be disqualified from the food stamp program for six months for the first offense, 12 months for the second and permanently if found guilty of a third offense. These penalties would apply to all individuals regardless of whether they are determined guilty at state or local administrative hearings or in courts of law.

Currently, persons found guilty of fraud at administrative hearings are disqualified for three months, while those found guilty by courts are disqualified for six to 24 months for food stamp abuses.

In the past, states have been reluctant to conduct administrative fraud hearings because they viewed findings of fraud to be under the jurisdiction of the legal system.

The proposal would add the intentional making of false or misleading statements to the offenses for which a person can be disqualified from the food stamp program. Then, states will not have to prove fraud per se, but only intentional misrepresentation by the household. Persons would be disqualified for violations of any state food stamp statute under the proposal announced recently.

"This is one of the many measures we're taking to improve the integrity of the food stamp program and eliminate fraud, waste and abuse," said Jarratt. "These rules should encourage states to actively pursue persons abusing the program by handling more cases of suspected fraud administratively."

The proposal would also change the way states recover overpayments. If a household receives more benefits than it is entitled to as a result of intentional misrepresentation, recovery would be the same as for a fraudulent overissuance.

Under current

Violations

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at no charge by our wage and hour staff."

"And, we remind management and labor alike, that persons who file a wage-related complaint, or participate in a subsequent investigation by the department, are protected by law from discrimination or discharge by their employers as a result of their activity," Brooks said. For more information, or to request a free copy of the 1979 Wage and Hour Act of North Carolina, contact the N.C. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division, 111 E. North St., Raleigh, NC 27601, (919) 733-2152.

procedures, only the disqualified individual is responsible for repaying fraudulent overissuances.

With the proposal, the household would be responsible for repaying the overissuance by agreeing to a reduction in its allotment or making the repayment in cash.

The state agency would also reduce a household's

future allotments to collect overpayments due to inadvertent errors by the recipient. These reductions would be limited to 10 per cent of the household's allotment or \$10 a month, whichever results in faster collection.

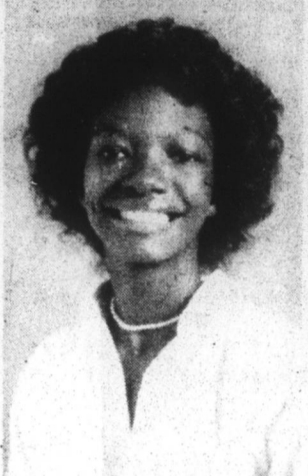
In addition, state agencies would be able to turn any claim over to professional collection agency or take the

household to court if it fails to respond to the agency's letter demanding repayment.

Comments on this proposed rule will be accepted until Aug. 20 and will be considered in developing final rules. Send comments to: Thomas O'Connor, family nutrition programs, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, Alexandria, Va. 22302.

Miss Banks Is National Award Winner

The United States Achievement Academy announced that Yulanda P. Banks has been named a 1982 United States National



Award winner in Business Education. This award is a prestigious honor very few students can ever hope to attain. In fact, the Academy recognizes less than 5 per cent of all American high school students.

Free Trip To Hawaii

The Perquimans County Recreation Department and Senior Center is sponsoring a trip to Hawaii in early November. For more information and if you are interested contact Patti White at 426 - 5404.



Some fish, such as groupers and flatfish, are able to change color to match the background on which they are lying.

Miss Banks, who attends John A. Holmes High School was nominated for this National award by Mrs. Grace Byrum, a Business teacher at the school. Miss Banks will appear in the United States Achievement Academy Official Yearbook, published nationally.

The Academy selects USAA winners upon the exclusive recommendation of teachers, coaches, counselors or other school sponsors and upon the

Standards for Selection set forth by the Academy. The criteria for selection are a student's academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit, dependability, and recommendation from a teacher or director.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. David Banks.

Fraud Penalties Collected

GREENSBORO — Civil fraud penalties totalling \$193,000 were collected against 34 North Carolina taxpayers during the first quarter of fiscal year 1982, the International Revenue Service has announced.

According to Glenn Jones, IRS public affairs officer, during the 1981 fiscal year, the IRS assessed almost \$1.2-million in civil fraud penalties from about 120 taxpayers.

Jones said, "The law provides for civil penalty of 50 per cent of the entire additional tax due if any

part of the tax understatement is due to fraud. The 50 per cent penalty may be asserted against a taxpayer even if criminal charges are not made."

He added that if the taxpayer is convicted of tax evasion, the full amount of additional tax and interest is assessed, plus the 50 per cent penalty. Also, the taxpayer could receive a sentence of up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine on each count of the indictment.

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COUNTRY HOME — Two story home. Features LR, DEN, DR, Kitchen, utility room, sewing room, 4BR, 3 Baths. Double garage. Located on beautiful lot. \$135,000. Long term owner financing at 13 1/2 per cent.

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CAPE COLONY — Shingle home on canal features LR, kitchen, 3 BR, bath, garage. Private boat ramp. \$39,000.

HISTORIC DISTRICT — Lovely two story colonial home on corner lot. Features living room, den, dining room, kitchen, five bedrooms, garage. Easy walking distance of downtown.

ONE MILE FROM TOWN — Two story brick home one mile from town. Features LR, den (fireplace), dining room, kitchen, four BR, 2 1/2 baths, and garage. Located on an acre of land. 9 per cent assumable. \$69,500.

ON CHOWAN RIVER — Two story brick home, featuring 4 BR, 3 baths, LR, kitchen, den with fireplace plus family room. Deck overlooking the water. \$80,000 with owner financing available.

BASE RD. — Brick, LR, kitchen, enclosed back yard. \$35,000.

CHOWAN RIVER — This riverfront home features LR, kitchen, 3 BR, nice bulkheaded lot. \$48,000.

HWY 17 — Brand new! 1750 sq. Features great room with fireplace, kitchen-dining combination, utility room, deck. \$69,500. Assumable 15 1/2 percent fixed rate.

ARROWHEAD BEACH — This home is located on three lots. Features LR, kitchen, DR, 3 BR, 2 baths. \$19,950.

OLD COUNTRY HOME — Needs moving and restoring. \$6,000.

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W. HICKS STREET — Lot for sale. \$2,900. Owner financing possible.

MEXICO RD. - FOR SALE — This three bedroom brick home features large living room, den (fireplace), kitchen, two baths, and garage. \$49,000.

HWY. 17 — Owner financing. 12 year old home on large wooded lot; features LR, den, dining area, kitchen, 3 BR, 1 1/2 baths. \$38,500.

MORGAN PARK — Beautiful brick home on an acre lot. Includes LR, DR, den, c. rm., solarium, kitchen, three BR, two baths, double garage and workshop, temp. controlled hothouse. \$98,500.

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