

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Oskopp

Subject: Wrongfully obtaining public assistance

Analyst: Vicky Donaldson, 651-296-5808

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Overview

This bill eliminates a requirement in the welfare fraud statute that fraudulent acts be committed with intent to defeat the purpose of various public assistance statutes.

- 1 Wrongfully obtaining assistance.** Under current law, a person is guilty of theft if the person (1) intends to defeat the purpose of the various public assistance programs; and (2) obtains assistance or assists someone to obtain assistance to which the person is not entitled by willfully giving false information or intentionally concealing material facts; or (3) assists an applicant or recipient to obtain assistance to which that person is not entitled by knowingly disposing of relevant property without the consent of the county agency. This section eliminates the requirement that the fraudulent acts be committed with intent to defeat the purpose of the public assistance statutes.
- 2 Effective date.** Applies to crimes committed on or after August 1, 1999.