



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2013 Wisconsin Act 42
[2013 Assembly Bill 82]

**Trafficking Food Stamp
Program Benefits**

In Wisconsin, the federal food stamp program is known as FoodShare. Current law specifies various offenses related to FoodShare and provides both criminal penalties and suspension of participation in FoodShare. The criminal penalties vary depending upon the value of the FoodShare coupons.

2013 Wisconsin Act 42 (the Act) creates a new FoodShare offense if a person knowingly traffics FoodShare benefits by doing any of the following:

- Buying, selling, stealing, or otherwise accomplishing the exchange of, directly, indirectly, in collusion with others, or individually, FoodShare benefits issued and accessed through the electronic benefit transfer program, or by manual voucher and signature, for cash or other consideration that is not food.
- Exchanging firearms, ammunition, explosives, or controlled substances, as defined in federal law, for FoodShare benefits.
- Using FoodShare benefits to purchase food that includes a container deposit for the sole purpose of discarding the container contents and returning the container for a cash refund of the deposit.
- Reselling food purchased with FoodShare benefits for the purpose of obtaining cash or other consideration that is not food.
- Purchasing, for cash or other consideration that is not food, food that was previously purchased from a supplier (a retail grocery store or other person authorized to accept FoodShare coupons in exchange for food) using FoodShare benefits.
- Committing any other act that is considered trafficking of food stamps under federal law.

Effective date: This Act took effect on July 24, 2013.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.