STATE OF NEW YORK

403

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by Sen. MYRIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to amend the social services law and the state finance law, in relation to establishing a SNAP and cash assistance fraud victims compensation fund; and making an appropriation therefor

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The social services law is amended by adding a new section 95-b to read as follows:

§ 95-b. SNAP and cash assistance fraud victims compensation program. 1. The office of temporary and disability assistance shall establish and maintain a SNAP and cash assistance fraud victims compensation program to compensate persons who receive benefits from the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) or cash assistance program who have had such benefits stolen or who have been defrauded of such benefits.

2. The SNAP and cash assistance fraud victims compensation program shall have an application process which shall be provided in English and languages other than English, including but not limited to the ten most commonly spoken languages, aside from English, in the state.

3. The inspector general and the attorney general shall work with the commissioner of temporary and disability assistance to determine whether a person who receives benefits under the SNAP or cash assistance program was defrauded of such benefits or if such benefits were otherwise stolen.

§ 2. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 99-ss to read as follows:

§ 99-ss. SNAP and cash assistance fraud victims compensation fund. 1. There is hereby established in the joint custody of the state comptroller and the commissioner of the office of temporary and disability

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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assistance a fund to be known as the SNAP and cash assistance fraud victims compensation fund, hereinafter referred to as the "fund".

2. Money allocated to the fund shall be kept separate and shall not be commingled with any other funds in the custody of the state comptroller.

3. The fund shall consist of all moneys appropriated for the purpose of such account, moneys transferred to such account pursuant to law, monies received from civil penalties regarding the supplemental nutrition assistance program, contributions consisting of promises or grants of any money or property of any kind or value, or any other thing of value, including grants or other financial assistance from any agency of government and moneys required by the provisions of this section or any other law to be paid into or credited to this account.

4. Money expended from such fund shall be used consistent with the SNAP and cash assistance fraud victims compensation program as established under section ninety-five-b of the social services law.

§ 3. The sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars ($1,500,000) is hereby appropriated to the SNAP and cash assistance fraud victims compensation fund as established pursuant to section 99-ss of the state finance law from the general fund to the credit of the account not otherwise appropriated for services and expenses of the account for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this act.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.