

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2347

To ensure the accuracy of information regarding the eligibility of applicants for benefits under Federal benefit programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York (for herself and Mr. HORN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight

A BILL

To ensure the accuracy of information regarding the eligibility of applicants for benefits under Federal benefit programs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Federal Benefit Ver-
5 ification and Integrity Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION TO**
7 **VERIFY LOAN APPLICATION DATA.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The head of any agency that is
9 responsible for approving the provision of benefits under

1 a Federal benefit program may not approve provision of
2 any benefit under the program to an applicant, unless the
3 applicant includes in the application for the benefit written
4 authorization and consent for the agency head to obtain
5 from any other State or Federal agency any information
6 or data, or a copy of any record, in the possession of such
7 other agency as is necessary to verify, validate, or other-
8 wise confirm the accuracy of information submitted by the
9 applicant to obtain the benefit.

10 (b) SCOPE OF AUTHORIZATION AND CONSENT.—Au-
11 thorization and consent required under subsection (a)—

12 (1) shall include, but not be limited to, author-
13 ization and consent to obtain information, data, and
14 copies of records to validate, verify, or otherwise
15 confirm the applicant's name, address, taxpayer
16 identifying number, income (including wages), and
17 assets; and

18 (2) shall apply to information, data, and
19 records maintained by any State or Federal agency
20 that the applicant is entitled or authorized to review
21 or obtain.

22 (c) FEE.—The head of any State or Federal agency
23 from whom information or records are sought under this
24 section may charge a fee to cover the cost of providing
25 the information or copies of records. The amount of any

1 fee under this subsection shall not exceed an amount di-
2 rectly related to the cost of providing the information or
3 copies of records requested.

4 (d) RELATIONSHIP TO PRIVACY ACT.—This section
5 shall not be considered to supersede or otherwise affect
6 any requirement or restriction of section 552a of title 5,
7 United States Code.

8 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) APPLICANT.—The term “applicant”
10 means—

11 (A) any person that applies for a benefit
12 under a Federal benefit program; and

13 (B) any other person about whom informa-
14 tion is requested by an agency responsible for
15 approving the provision of benefits under a
16 Federal benefit program as part of the review
17 of an application for benefits under the pro-
18 gram, such as a potential guarantor of a feder-
19 ally guaranteed loan.

20 (2) FEDERAL BENEFIT PROGRAM.—The term
21 “Federal benefit program” has the meaning given
22 that term in section 552a of title 5, United States
23 Code.

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