## §905-C. Misuse of public benefits instrument

- 1. A person is guilty of misuse of a public benefits instrument if the person knowingly:
- A. Transfers a public benefits instrument without authorization of the agency issuing the instrument; or [PL 2011, c. 687, §1 (NEW).]
- B. Obtains or possesses a public benefits instrument that was obtained without authorization of the agency issuing the instrument. [PL 2011, c. 687, §1 (NEW).] [PL 2011, c. 687, §1 (NEW).]
- 2. As used in this section, "public benefits instrument" means electronic benefits transfer cards, coupons, vouchers and any other means for distributing benefits from the following programs:
  - A. The municipal general assistance program under Title 22, chapter 1161; [PL 2011, c. 687, §1 (NEW).]
  - B. The TANF program under Title 22, chapter 1053-B; [PL 2011, c. 687, §1 (NEW).]
  - C. The statewide Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program under Title 22, section 3104; [PL 2021, c. 398, Pt. OO, §2 (AMD).]
  - D. The child care subsidies under Title 22, chapter 1052-A; or [PL 2011, c. 687, §1 (NEW).]
  - E. The Women, Infants and Children Special Supplemental Food Program of the United States Child Nutrition Act of 1966. [PL 2011, c. 687, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 398, Pt. OO, §2 (AMD).]

3. Misuse of a public benefits instrument is a Class D crime.

[PL 2011, c. 687, §1 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY** 

PL 2011, c. 687, §1 (NEW). PL 2021, c. 398, Pt. OO, §2 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Special Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature and is current through October 1, 2025. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.