

Public Law 99-474
99th Congress

An Act

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide additional penalties for fraud and related activities in connection with access devices and computers, and for other purposes.

Oct. 16, 1986
[H.R. 4718]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Computer Fraud
and Abuse Act
of 1986.
18 USC 1001
note.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Computer Fraud and Abuse Act of 1986".

SEC. 2. SECTION 1030 AMENDMENTS.

(a) **MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.**—Section 1030(a)(2) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking out "knowingly" and inserting "intentionally" in lieu thereof;

(2) by striking out "as such terms are defined in the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978 (12 U.S.C. 3401 et seq.);";

(3) by striking out the term "or" where it appears at the end of section 1030(a)(2) of title 18; and

(4) by adding after the term "financial institution" the following: "or of a card issuer as defined in section 1602(n) of title 15,".

(b) **MODIFICATION OF EXISTING GOVERNMENT COMPUTERS OFFENSE.**—Section 1030(a)(3) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) to read as follows:

"(3) intentionally, without authorization to access any computer of a department or agency of the United States, accesses such a computer of that department or agency that is exclusively for the use of the Government of the United States or, in the case of a computer not exclusively for such use, is used by or for the Government of the United States and such conduct affects the use of the Government's operation of such computer;"; and

(2) by striking out the flush language after section 1030(a)(3) of title 18, United States Code, beginning with "It is not an offense" and all that follows through "use of the computer."

(c) **MODIFICATION OF AUTHORIZED ACCESS ASPECT OF OFFENSES.**—Paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1030(a) of title 18, United States Code, are each amended by striking out ", or having accessed" and all that follows through "does not extend" and inserting "or exceeds authorized access" in lieu thereof.

(d) **NEW OFFENSES.**—Section 1030(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

"(4) knowingly and with intent to defraud, accesses a Federal interest computer without authorization, or exceeds authorized access, and by means of such conduct furthers the intended fraud and obtains anything of value, unless the object of the

fraud and the thing obtained consists only of the use of the computer;

“(5) intentionally accesses a Federal interest computer without authorization, and by means of one or more instances of such conduct alters, damages, or destroys information in any such Federal interest computer, or prevents authorized use of any such computer or information, and thereby—

“(A) causes loss to one or more others of a value aggregating \$1,000 or more during any one year period; or

“(B) modifies or impairs, or potentially modifies or impairs, the medical examination, medical diagnosis, medical treatment, or medical care of one or more individuals; or

“(6) knowingly and with intent to defraud traffics (as defined in section 1029) in any password or similar information through which a computer may be accessed without authorization, if—

“(A) such trafficking affects interstate or foreign commerce; or

“(B) such computer is used by or for the Government of the United States;”.

(e) **ELIMINATION OF SECTION SPECIFIC CONSPIRACY OFFENSE.**—Section 1030(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking out “(1)”; and

(2) by striking out paragraph (2).

(f) **PENALTY AMENDMENTS.**—Section 1030 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking out “of not more than the greater of \$10,000” and all that follows through “obtained by the offense” in subsection (c)(1)(A) and inserting “under this title” in lieu thereof;

(2) by striking out “of not more than the greater of \$100,000” and all that follows through “obtained by the offense” in subsection (c)(1)(B) and inserting “under this title” in lieu thereof;

(3) by striking out “or (a)(3)” each place it appears in subsection (c)(2) and inserting “, (a)(3) or (a)(6)” in lieu thereof;

(4) by striking out “of not more than the greater of \$5,000” and all that follows through “created by the offense” in subsection (c)(2)(A) and inserting “under this title” in lieu thereof;

(5) by striking out “of not more than the greater of \$10,000” and all that follows through “created by the offense” in subsection (c)(2)(B) and inserting “under this title” in lieu thereof;

(6) by striking out “not than” in subsection (c)(2)(B) and inserting “not more than” in lieu thereof;

(7) by striking out the period at the end of subsection (c)(2)(B) and inserting “; and” in lieu thereof; and

(8) by adding at the end of subsection (c) the following:

“(3)(A) a fine under this title or imprisonment for not more than five years, or both, in the case of an offense under subsection (a)(4) or (a)(5) of this section which does not occur after a conviction for another offense under such subsection, or an attempt to commit an offense punishable under this subparagraph; and

“(B) a fine under this title or imprisonment for not more than ten years, or both, in the case of an offense under subsection (a)(4) or (a)(5) of this section which occurs after a conviction for another offense under such subsection, or an attempt to commit an offense punishable under this subparagraph.”; and

18 USC 1029.

Commerce and
trade.

(9) by deleting the term “(b)(1)” where it appears in the first line of section 1030(c) of title 18 and inserting in lieu thereof the term “(b)”.

(g) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO DEFINITIONS PROVISION.—Section 1030(e) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking out the comma after “As used in this section” and inserting a one-em dash in lieu thereof;

(2) by aligning the remaining portion of the subsection so that it is cut in two ems and begins as an indented paragraph, and inserting “(1)” before “the term”;

(3) by striking out the period at the end and inserting a semicolon in lieu thereof; and

(4) by adding at the end thereof the following:

“(2) the term ‘Federal interest computer’ means a computer—

“(A) exclusively for the use of a financial institution or the United States Government, or, in the case of a computer not exclusively for such use, used by or for a financial institution or the United States Government and the conduct constituting the offense affects the use of the financial institution’s operation or the Government’s operation of such computer; or

“(B) which is one of two or more computers used in committing the offense, not all of which are located in the same State;

“(3) the term ‘State’ includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any other possession or territory of the United States;

“(4) the term ‘financial institution’ means—

“(A) a bank with deposits insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;

“(B) the Federal Reserve or a member of the Federal Reserve including any Federal Reserve Bank;

“(C) an institution with accounts insured by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation;

“(D) a credit union with accounts insured by the National Credit Union Administration;

“(E) a member of the Federal home loan bank system and any home loan bank;

“(F) any institution of the Farm Credit System under the Farm Credit Act of 1971;

“(G) a broker-dealer registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to section 15 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and

“(H) the Securities Investor Protection Corporation;

“(5) the term ‘financial record’ means information derived from any record held by a financial institution pertaining to a customer’s relationship with the financial institution;

“(6) the term ‘exceeds authorized access’ means to access a computer with authorization and to use such access to obtain or alter information in the computer that the accesser is not entitled so to obtain or alter; and

“(7) the term ‘department of the United States’ means the legislative or judicial branch of the Government or one of the executive departments enumerated in section 101 of title 5.”.

(h) LAW ENFORCEMENT AND INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITY EXCEPTION.—Section 1030 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

12 USC 2001
note.

15 USC 78o.

Law
enforcement and
crime.
State and local
governments.

“(f) This section does not prohibit any lawfully authorized investigative, protective, or intelligence activity of a law enforcement agency of the United States, a State, or a political subdivision of a State, or of an intelligence agency of the United States.”.

Approved October 16, 1986.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 4718 (S. 2281):

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 99-612 (Comm. on the Judiciary).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 99-432 accompanying S. 2281 (Comm. on the Judiciary).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 132 (1986):

June 3, considered and passed House.

Oct. 1, S. 2281 considered and passed Senate.

Oct. 3, H.R. 4718 considered and passed Senate, amended.

Oct. 6, House concurred in Senate amendments.

