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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5080**

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**State of Washington**

**54th Legislature**

**1995 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Smith, Gaspard, Roach, Long, Deccio, Haugen, Schow, Newhouse and Oke)

Read first time 02/17/95.

1 AN ACT Relating to use of electronic security systems to prevent  
2 fraud involving driver's licenses and identicards; creating new  
3 sections; and making an appropriation.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that: (1) There is an  
6 unreasonably high level of fraudulent transactions involving the use of  
7 documents that misrepresent the identity of the person using them; (2)  
8 this fraud extends into the commercial and public assistance sectors  
9 and causes taxpayers, businesses, and government to experience  
10 financial losses which otherwise could and should be avoided; (3)  
11 losses to government assistance programs due to fraudulent transactions  
12 reduce the support available to the truly needy and such losses must be  
13 reduced in order to make a more efficient and humane assistance system  
14 available; (4) driver's licenses and identicards issued by the  
15 department of licensing have become the most widely accepted forms of  
16 personal identification in use by Washington citizens; and (5) there is  
17 a significant need to improve the verifiability of documents issued by  
18 the state of Washington that are commonly used for identification  
19 purposes.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    (1) The department of licensing is directed  
2 to undertake a study of the methods and technology currently available  
3 and under development that are designed to provide an electronic data-  
4 based system of government-issued documents that are used as drivers'  
5 licenses or state-issued identification cards and that provide  
6 extremely high assurances of verification that the holder of the  
7 document is the person identified on the document.

8        (2) The study shall consider: (a) The extent of the problem of  
9 invalid identification documents and the costs and consequences  
10 associated with such documents; (b) the existing and developing  
11 technology and practices for improving identification verification  
12 programs including use of biometric identifiers; (c) the impact of any  
13 suggested technological and programmatic change on the business  
14 practices of affected state agencies and the private sector; (d) the  
15 impact on the consumers of affected state services; (e) the impact on  
16 individual privacy; (f) the likelihood of success of implementing in  
17 Washington available and developing practices and technology designed  
18 to enhance verifiability of identification documents; (g) the benefits,  
19 costs, and risks for affected parties associated with proposed systems;  
20 (h) the experience in other jurisdictions that have undertaken and  
21 implemented similar identification enhancement projects; (i) methods of  
22 providing financial support for any changes in practices and technology  
23 needed to achieve the goal of improved verifiability of identification  
24 documents; (j) the length of time necessary to implement changes  
25 studied by the department; (k) methods of mitigating any adverse  
26 consequences which may result from changes; (l) how to allow the  
27 department of social and health services to access and utilize the  
28 improvements in the documents for purposes of enrolling and maintaining  
29 persons in public assistance programs under Title 74 RCW; and (m) the  
30 coordination of programs and technology advances in other states.

31        (3) The study shall be completed no later than November 1, 1997,  
32 and the department shall report its conclusions and recommendations to  
33 the legislature by December 1, 1997.

34        (4) The department shall coordinate its work on the study with all  
35 appropriate state departments and agencies, including the state patrol,  
36 department of information services, department of social and health  
37 services, the legislature, and any other appropriate public agency.

38        (5) The department shall form an advisory committee that shall  
39 include representatives from the affected state and law enforcement

1 agencies, at least five members of the public, one member of the  
2 majority party in the senate and in the house of representatives and  
3 one member of the minority party in the senate and in the house of  
4 representatives, and such other groups as the department finds  
5 necessary to provide review, advice, and guidance on the study.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of three hundred thousand dollars,  
7 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the  
8 biennium ending June 30, 1997, from the general fund to the department  
9 of licensing for the purposes of this act.

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