
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5080

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 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 02/01/96.

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 that: (a) The holder of the document is the
7 person identified on the document; and (b) that each person is only
8 able to obtain one license or identicard. The department of licensing
9 shall have authority to hire a consultant to perform the study if
10 necessary.

11 (2) The study shall include an examination of:

12 (a) The existing and developing technology for improving identity
13 verification by the use of biometric identifiers;

14 (b) The experience in other jurisdictions that have implemented
15 biometric identifier systems; and

16 (c) The identification needs of the various jurisdictions,
17 organizations, and industries in the state, and how a biometric
18 approach to enhancing the reliability of identification could affect
19 the business practices of those entities.

20 (3) The study shall make a recommendation of a biometric approach
21 to be incorporated into the department of licensing's procedures for
22 issuance, renewal, and replacement of drivers' licenses and
23 identicards. In regard to the recommendation, the study shall examine
24 and report on:

25 (a) The impact on customers of the department of licensing
26 implementing the recommended biometric approach, including analysis of
27 whether licenses or identicards can continue to be issued instantly or
28 should return to a central issuance procedure. The impact on customers
29 shall include analysis of the amount of time to obtain issuance or
30 renewal of a license or identicard and customer reaction to submitting
31 to a finger scan;

32 (b) The impact, costs, and efficiencies of the recommended approach
33 on the business practices of affected state agencies and the private
34 sector;

35 (c) The impact on individual privacy;

36 (d) The likelihood of success of implementing a biometric approach
37 to enhance verifiability of identification;

38 (e) The benefits, costs, and risks for affected parties associated
39 with the proposed approach;

1 (f) The methods of funding for any changes in practices and
2 addition of technology needed to achieve the goal of improved
3 verifiability of identification, including the availability of federal
4 or other grant money;

5 (g) The length of time necessary to implement the approach
6 recommended by the study;

7 (h) The methods of mitigating adverse consequences that might
8 result from changes;

9 (i) How to allow the department of social and health services to
10 access and utilize the improvements in identification for purposes of
11 verifying the identity of persons who apply for or receive public
12 assistance;

13 (j) Whether the biometric approach will have the potential to
14 assist the department of social and health services in implementation
15 of an electronic benefit transfer program, including whether the
16 biometric approach can assist in ensuring electronic benefit transfer
17 card security;

18 (k) The coordination of programs and technology advances with other
19 states;

20 (l) An evaluation of the use, application, costs, and efficiencies
21 that law enforcement and courts can expect from the recommended
22 biometric approach and if fingerprinting is the recommended biometric
23 approach, an evaluation of potential limitations that should be placed
24 on law enforcement prior to accessing the fingerprint data base; and

25 (m) The potential impact of the biometric approach on the
26 availability and use of fraudulent identification in retail and banking
27 transactions, and estimates of the amount of fraud losses that the
28 approach might prevent.

29 (4) The study shall be completed and the department shall report
30 its conclusions and recommendations to the legislature by January 1,
31 1997.

32 (5) The department shall form a steering committee to monitor the
33 progress of the study and assure its quality. The director of
34 licensing shall chair the steering committee, and the committee shall
35 include representatives from each of the following agencies: The
36 office of financial management; the department of information services;
37 the Washington state patrol; the department of social and health
38 services; and the office of the administrator for the courts. The
39 steering committee shall also include representatives from the

1 Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, the retail and
2 banking industries, and such other groups as the department of
3 licensing finds necessary to provide review, advice, and guidance on
4 the study.

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

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