

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## ESB 5418

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Allowing consumers to place a security freeze on a credit report.

**Sponsors:** Senators Berkey, Benton, Fairley, Shin, Kastama, Carrell, McAuliffe, Benson, Prentice, Delvin, Kohl-Welles, Keiser and Kline.

**Senate Committee on Financial Institutions, Housing & Consumer Protection**  
**House Committee on Financial Institutions & Insurance**

**Background:** "Identity Theft" is one of the fastest growing crimes in 21st Century America, and Washington State has a significant number of victims. Many consumers are concerned with finding new ways to protect their financial identities. California recently enacted a law providing consumers with the right to place a "security freeze" on their own credit reports. The freeze provides almost total prevention of access to a person's credit report, and can be lifted by the consumer if they wish to allow specific access.

**Summary:** A victim of identity theft or data security breach may place a "credit freeze" on his or her credit report, by following a detailed procedure. The consumer receives an identification code, allowing them to lift the freeze, if they want to allow temporary access to their credit histories, for a specific party or a period of time, such as during a mortgage or car loan application.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

Senate	33	15	
House	66	30	(House amended)
Senate	47	2	(Senate concurred)

**Effective:** July 24, 2005