

By Senator Stargel

22-00467-17

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to reemployment assistance fraud;
3 amending s. 322.142, F.S.; authorizing reproductions
4 from certain files or digital records maintained by
5 the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to
6 be made and issued to the Department of Economic
7 Opportunity pursuant to an interagency agreement for
8 specified purposes; providing an effective date.
9

10 WHEREAS, the incidence of identity theft and the resulting
11 fraud has reached a crisis level, and

12 WHEREAS, identity theft is especially problematic in this
13 state, and the Federal Trade Commission reports that Florida has
14 the highest per capita rate of reported fraud in the nation, and

15 WHEREAS, stolen identities are used to commit an ever-
16 expanding range of fraud, including public assistance fraud, and

17 WHEREAS, identity theft and related fraud harm those whose
18 identities are stolen, rob the social safety net of precious
19 resources, impose unwarranted costs on taxpayers, and undermine
20 public confidence in government, and

21 WHEREAS, the Department of Economic Opportunity's efforts
22 to detect, prevent, and prosecute fraud have revealed that
23 thousands of fraudulent claims for reemployment assistance are
24 being filed, and

25 WHEREAS, the Department of Economic Opportunity has made
26 prevention, detection, and prosecution of reemployment
27 assistance fraud a top priority and has identified additional
28 resources and tools necessary to effectively combat fraud, NOW,
29 THEREFORE,

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31 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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33 Section 1. Present paragraphs (k), (l), and (m) of
34 subsection (4) of section 322.142, Florida Statutes, are
35 redesignated as paragraphs (l), (m), and (n), respectively, and
36 a new paragraph (k) is added to that subsection, to read:

37 322.142 Color photographic or digital imaged licenses.—

38 (4) The department may maintain a film negative or print
39 file. The department shall maintain a record of the digital
40 image and signature of the licensees, together with other data
41 required by the department for identification and retrieval.
42 Reproductions from the file or digital record are exempt from
43 the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and may be made and issued only:

44 (k) To the Department of Economic Opportunity pursuant to
45 an interagency agreement to facilitate the validation of
46 reemployment assistance claims and the identification of
47 fraudulent or false reemployment assistance claims.

48 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.