

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to reemployment assistance fraud;  
3 amending s. 322.142, F.S.; adding the Department of  
4 Economic Opportunity as an entity that may be issued  
5 reproductions from certain files or digital records  
6 for specified reasons; providing an effective date.  
7

8 WHEREAS, the incidence of identity theft and resulting  
9 fraud has reached a crisis level, and

10 WHEREAS, identity theft is especially problematic in this  
11 state, which the Federal Trade Commission reports has the  
12 highest per capita rate of identity theft in the nation, and

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, the Department of Economic Opportunity has made  
24 prevention, detection, and prosecution of reemployment  
25 assistance fraud a top priority and has identified additional

26 | resources and tools necessary to effectively combat fraud, NOW,  
 27 | THEREFORE,

28 |

29 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

30 |

31 | Section 1. Paragraphs (k), (l), and (m) of subsection (4)  
 32 | of section 322.142, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
 33 | paragraphs (l), (m), and (n), respectively, and a new paragraph  
 34 | (k) is added to that subsection to read:

35 | 322.142 Color photographic or digital imaged licenses.—

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

42 | (k) To the Department of Economic Opportunity pursuant to  
 43 | an interagency agreement to facilitate the validation of  
 44 | reemployment assistance claims and the identification of  
 45 | fraudulent or false reemployment assistance claims;

46 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.