



Jesse White

SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS

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Jesse White Pushes for Law Aimed at Preventing the Misuse of Driver's License Information Protects Personal Information of Driver's and ID holders

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White announced today that he has initiated legislation that is aimed at preventing businesses from misusing information obtained from a patrons' Illinois driver's license and identification card.

Given the increase in identity theft and fraud, White said the legislation is one more step in protecting the privacy of individuals who are asked to present their driver's licenses or ID cards to business establishments.

The Secretary of State's office has been alerted to cases in which a store or bar, after asking a patron to present their identification, copies that person's information and uses it to solicit them or keeps it on file with the business.

"The practice is not only invasive but dangerous in the wrong hands," White said. "Because the driver's license has become the most used form of identification, it is important that we take extra steps in protecting Illinois consumers."

The legislation, House Bill 487, which was introduced by Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago):

- Provides that a business obtaining information from a driver's license to identify or prove the age of a patron may only use that information for the business transaction in which it was obtained.
- The business may not use the information for other purposes, including solicitation, and may not sell, lease or otherwise provide the information to any third party.
- Any individual whose driver's license information is used in violation of this statute has grounds for a civil suit against the person who misused the information. If it is proven the information was misused, the victim is entitled to \$250 for each violation, plus attorney's fees and the costs of bringing the action.

However, a business is not liable under this legislation if the individual whose information the business uses gave permission for that use, or if the information was obtained from a source other than the individual's drivers license.

"This initiative is just one more way we are working to protect the public," said Rep. Feigenholtz. "People should feel that when they are asked to show their license or ID, that's the end of their transaction."