



# Jesse White

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## SECRETARY OF STATE

# NEWS

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### **Governor Signs Jesse White's Initiative To Prevent the Misuse of Driver's License Information** *Protects Personal Information of Driver's and ID holders*

Legislation initiated by Secretary of State Jesse White aimed at preventing businesses from misusing information obtained from a patrons' Illinois driver's license and identification card was signed into law by Governor Rod Blagojevich.

"I want to commend Governor Blagojevich and the members of the General Assembly for helping establish this new law that will further protect the personal information of Illinois citizens," said White. "Because the driver's license has become the most used form of identification, it is important that we take extra steps to protect Illinois consumers."

Given the increase in identity theft and fraud, White said the new law is a necessary step in protecting the privacy of individuals who are asked to present their drivers' 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.

The legislation, Senate Bill SB2283, which was introduced by Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago) and Sen. Arthur Wilhemi (D-Joliet):

- 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 or for completing a commercial transaction.
- 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.