

HB 1591 -- Consumer Credit Reports

Sponsor: Yates

This bill allows a person to place a security alert or freeze on his or her credit report.

When a security alert is placed, the consumer credit reporting agency will notify anyone requesting credit information of the alert. Any person who receives notification of a security alert must take reasonable steps to verify a consumer's identity before lending money or extending credit. A consumer can request his or her identity be verified by calling a specified telephone number. Consumer credit reporting agencies recklessly failing to place a security alert on a consumer's report may be penalized up to \$2,500 and reasonable attorney fees.

If a security freeze is in place, information from a consumer's credit report may not be released to a third party without prior express authorization from the consumer. Consumer credit reporting agencies may not change official information in a report without written confirmation to the consumer.

When contacted by a consumer who has reason to believe he or she may have been a victim of identity theft, the consumer reporting agencies must provide information on his or her rights. If the victim provides a police report establishing identity theft, the consumer reporting agency must provide a specified number of copies of the consumer's file free of charge to the victim.