

House Bill No. 635

An act relating to drivers' licenses; creating s. 322.0515, F.S.; providing for compliance with federal requirements by certain applicants for drivers' licenses or identification cards; directing the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to forward certain information to the federal Selective Service System with respect to certain applicants; providing described notice to applicants; directing the department to include a described statement on certain applications for drivers' licenses or identification cards; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature through the adoption of this act to protect state residents from the penalties associated with the failure to register with the Selective Service System and to help ensure that any future draft is fair and equitable to all potential draftees, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that the penalties associated with non-compliance with the Selective Service System registration requirements are severe, including, but not limited to, a felony conviction and forfeiture of the ability to seek employment from certain state agencies and departments, and

WHEREAS, failure to register may permanently preclude the violator from acquiring many federal benefits, such as federal employment, including employment with the United States Postal Service, federal and state financial assistance, participation in federally funded job training programs, and eligibility for United States citizenship for immigrants seeking citizenship, and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the severe consequences of noncompliance and the importance of helping to ensure that any future military draft is fair and equitable, it is the intent of the Legislature to notify state residents of their responsibility to register with the Selective Service System and to provide these citizens with the opportunity to register concurrent with application for a driver's license or identification card, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. Section 322.0515, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

322.0515 Department to forward certain information to federal Selective Service System; notification to applicant for certain license; application statement required.—

(1) The department shall:

(a) Require any male United States citizen or immigrant who is at least 18 years of age but less than 26 years of age to comply with federal Selective Service System requirements when applying to receive a driver's license, a learner's driver's license, a commercial driver's license, an identification card, or the renewal or duplicate card or license as described in this chapter.

(b) Forward to the federal Selective Service System information about applicants for a license or card as described in paragraph (a) in an electronic format to assist in compliance with federal Selective Service System requirements.

(c) Provide notification to each applicant for a license or card as described in paragraph (a) that an applicant's submission of the application serves to certify that the applicant either has complied with federal Selective Service System requirements or is authorizing the department to forward to the Selective Service System the information necessary for registration.

(d) Notify an applicant for a license or card as described in paragraph (a) who is under 18 years of age that the applicant will be registered upon attaining 18 years of age as required by federal law.

(2) The department shall provide, by rule, for the following statement to be included on an application for a license or card as described in paragraph (1)(a): "By submitting this application, I am consenting to registration with the federal Selective Service System, if so required. If under 18 years of age, I understand that I will be registered when I attain 18 years of age as required by federal law."

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Approved by the Governor June 5, 2001.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 5, 2001.