

CHAPTER 2017-18

House Bill No. 671

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Department of Economic Opportunity has made prevention, detection, and prosecution of reemployment assistance fraud a top priority and has identified additional resources and tools necessary to effectively combat fraud, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

322.142 Color photographic or digital imaged licenses.—

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

(k) To the Department of Economic Opportunity pursuant to an interagency agreement to facilitate the validation of reemployment

assistance claims and the identification of fraudulent or false reemployment assistance claims;

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

Approved by the Governor May 9, 2017.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 9, 2017.