

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Holberg

Subject: Bulk transfer of driver and vehicle data

Analyst: Matt Gehring, 651-296-5052

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Overview

This bill requires the commissioner of public safety to provide access to vehicle registration data, and driver's license and state identification card data, consistent with the permissible uses of the data provided in federal law.

The bill also requires a study of the use of and access to these data in the state.

Section

- 1 Vehicle registration data; federal compliance.** Requires the commissioner of public safety to disclose data on vehicle registrations in bulk form, consistent with the permissible uses of the data described in federal law.

A list of those uses is attached at the end of this summary.

- 2 Privacy of data.** Requires the commissioner of public safety to disclose data provided by individuals seeking a driver's license and state identification card in bulk form, consistent with the permissible uses of the data described in federal law.

A list of those uses is attached at the end of this summary.

- 3 Review of issues related to the use of state motor vehicle registration and driver's license data; interim study.** Requires the commissioners of public safety and administration to study issues relating to access to and use of motor vehicle registration and driver's license data held by the state. A list of specific items that must be studied is provided in the bill.

In conducting the study, the commissioners are required to consult with private and governmental entities that obtain and use motor vehicle registration data.

A report to the legislature is required by January 15, 2015.

Excerpts of Driver's Privacy Protection Act

Permissible Uses: 18 U.S.C. § 2721, paragraphs (a) and (b)

(a) In General.— A State department of motor vehicles, and any officer, employee, or contractor thereof, shall not knowingly disclose or otherwise make available to any person or entity:

(1) personal information, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2725 (3), about any individual obtained by the department in connection with a motor vehicle record, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section; or

(2) highly restricted personal information, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2725 (4), about any individual obtained by the department in connection with a motor vehicle record, without the express consent of the person to whom such information applies, except uses permitted in subsections (b)(1), (b)(4), (b)(6), and (b)(9): Provided, That subsection (a)(2) shall not in any way affect the use of organ donation information on an individual's driver's license or affect the administration of organ donation initiatives in the States.

(b) Permissible Uses.— Personal information referred to in subsection (a) shall be disclosed for use in connection with matters of motor vehicle or driver safety and theft, motor vehicle emissions, motor vehicle product alterations, recalls, or advisories, performance monitoring of motor vehicles and dealers by motor vehicle manufacturers, and removal of non-owner records from the original owner records of motor vehicle manufacturers to carry out the purposes of titles I and IV of the Anti Car Theft Act of 1992, the Automobile Information Disclosure Act (15 U.S.C. 1231 et seq.), the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.), and chapters 301, 305, and 321–331 of title 49, and, subject to subsection (a)(2), may be disclosed as follows:

(1) For use by any government agency, including any court or law enforcement agency, in carrying out its functions, or any private person or entity acting on behalf of a Federal, State, or local agency in carrying out its functions.

(2) For use in connection with matters of motor vehicle or driver safety and theft; motor vehicle emissions; motor vehicle product alterations, recalls, or advisories; performance monitoring of motor vehicles, motor vehicle parts and dealers; motor vehicle market research activities, including survey research; and removal of non-owner records from the original owner records of motor vehicle manufacturers.

(3) For use in the normal course of business by a legitimate business or its agents, employees, or contractors, but only—

(A) to verify the accuracy of personal information submitted by the individual to the business or its agents, employees, or contractors; and

(B) if such information as so submitted is not correct or is no longer correct, to obtain the correct information, but only for the purposes of preventing fraud by, pursuing legal remedies against, or recovering on a debt or security interest against, the individual.

(4) For use in connection with any civil, criminal, administrative, or arbitral proceeding in any Federal, State, or local court or agency or before any self-regulatory body, including the service of process, investigation in anticipation of litigation, and the execution or enforcement of judgments and orders, or pursuant to an order of a Federal, State, or local court.

(5) For use in research activities, and for use in producing statistical reports, so long as the personal information is not published, redisclosed, or used to contact individuals.

(6) For use by any insurer or insurance support organization, or by a self-insured entity, or its agents, employees, or contractors, in connection with claims investigation activities, antifraud activities, rating or underwriting.

(7) For use in providing notice to the owners of towed or impounded vehicles.

(8) For use by any licensed private investigative agency or licensed security service for any purpose permitted under this subsection.

Section

- (9) For use by an employer or its agent or insurer to obtain or verify information relating to a holder of a commercial driver's license that is required under chapter 313 of title 49.
- (10) For use in connection with the operation of private toll transportation facilities.
- (11) For any other use in response to requests for individual motor vehicle records if the State has obtained the express consent of the person to whom such personal information pertains.
- (12) For bulk distribution for surveys, marketing or solicitations if the State has obtained the express consent of the person to whom such personal information pertains.
- (13) For use by any requester, if the requester demonstrates it has obtained the written consent of the individual to whom the information pertains.
- (14) For any other use specifically authorized under the law of the State that holds the record, if such use is related to the operation of a motor vehicle or public safety.

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Definitions: 18 U.S.C. § 2725

In this chapter—

- (1) “motor vehicle record” means any record that pertains to a motor vehicle operator's permit, motor vehicle title, motor vehicle registration, or identification card issued by a department of motor vehicles;
- (2) “person” means an individual, organization or entity, but does not include a State or agency thereof;
- (3) “personal information” means information that identifies an individual, including an individual's photograph, social security number, driver identification number, name, address (but not the 5-digit zip code), telephone number, and medical or disability information, but does not include information on vehicular accidents, driving violations, and driver's status.
- (4) “highly restricted personal information” means an individual's photograph or image, social security number, medical or disability information; and
- (5) “express consent” means consent in writing, including consent conveyed electronically that bears an electronic signature as defined in section 106(5) of Public Law 106–229.