

Consumers Union CONTACT: Gail Hillebrand (415) 431-6747

# Freeze identity thieves out of consumers' credit files State identity theft protection bills that give consumers the right to place a security freezes on their credit files

# States with security freeze laws

Ten states have passed laws that allow consumers to put a security freeze on credit files, which prevents crooks from opening new accounts in the consumer's name

## Alaska

HB 226 An Act relating to breaches of security involving personal information; and relating to credit report security freezes.

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\_bill\_text.asp?hsid=HB0226A&session=24

SB 148 An Act relating to breaches of security involving personal information; and relating to credit report security freezes.

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\_bill\_text.asp?hsid=HB0226A&session=24

SB 149 An Act relating to breaches of security involving personal information; and relating to credit report security freezes. Senator Guess

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\_bill\_text.asp?hsid=SB0149A&session=24

Contact: AKPIRG: Steve Cleary, (907) 278-3661

The Alaska legislature did not pass these bills in 2005. Check this space when the Legislature returns for more information.

# Colorado - Enacted

SB 137, Credit Report Security Freeze Act, sponsored by Senator Dan Grossman, Representative Angela Paccione and Representative Jerry Frangas

http://www.leg.state.co.us/CLICS2005A/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/349195C4D17F1A7787256F8E0001202B?Open&file=1 37 01.pdf

Contacts: COPIRG: Rex Wilmouth, Director Phone: (303) 573-7474

Connecticut: - Enacted

SB 650, An Act Requiring Credit Bureaus to Offer Security Freezes http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill\_num=650&which\_year=2005

Contact: CONNPIRG: Chris Phelps, Director Phone: (860) 233-7554

#### Hawaii

HB655 and SB764, An Act Relating to Consumer Credit Reporting Agencies for Identity Theft Victims (this measure gives the right to place a security freeze only to ID theft victims)

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/hb655\_.htm http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb764 .htm

The Hawaii legislature did not pass these bills in 2005. Check this space when the Legislature returns for more information.

# Illinois - Enacted

HB 1058, Credit Report Security Freeze Act for Identity Theft Victims, sponsored by Representative Marlow H. Colvin

http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/94/hb/09400hb1058lv.htm

(this measure gives the right to place a security freeze only to ID theft victims)

Contact: Illinois PIRG: John Gaudette Phone: (312) 364-0096

## Indiana

SB 178, Security Freeze for Consumer Reports, sponsored by Senator Gary Dillon http://www.in.gov/legislative/bills/2005/PDF/IN/IN0178.1.pdf
Senator Gary Dillon
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-9400

The Indiana Legislature finished without enacting this bill. Check this space when the Legislature returns for more information.

## Kansas:

HB 2438 An Act amending and supplementing the fair credit reporting act; providing for nondisclosure of certain information under certain circumstances.

http://www.kslegislature.org/bills/2006/2438.pdf

The Kansas Legislature finished without enacting this bill. Check this space when the Legislature returns for more information.

# Kentucky:

HB 396, An Act Relating to Consumer Protection by Rep. Lee http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/record/05rs/HB396/bill.doc

The Kentucky Legislature finished without enacting this bill. Check this space when the Legislature returns for more information.

# Maine - Enacted

An Act Regarding Identity Theft Deterrence L.D. 581, S.P. 190, Senator Bromley <a href="http://janus.state.me.us/legis/LawMakerWeb/externalsiteframe.asp?ID=280015326&LD=581&Type=1&SessionID=6">http://janus.state.me.us/legis/LawMakerWeb/externalsiteframe.asp?ID=280015326&LD=581&Type=1&SessionID=6</a>

# Maryland

An Act Regarding Security Freezes, sponsored by Delegate Neil Quinter HB 1569, http://mlis.state.md.us/2005rs/billfile/HB1569.htm

An Act Regarding Security Freezes, sponsored by Senator Lisa Gladden SB 879, http://mlis.state.md.us/2005rs/bills/sb/sb0879f.pdf

Another identity theft prevention measure in Maryland, not addressing the security freeze issue, is: HB 56, An Act Concerning the Privacy of Social Security Numbers, sponsored by Delegate Shane Pendergrass <a href="http://mlis.state.md.us/2005rs/billfile/HB0056.htm">http://mlis.state.md.us/2005rs/billfile/HB0056.htm</a>

Contact: MARYPIRG: Brad Heavner, Director, Phone: (410) 467-0439

The Maryland Legislature finished without enacting this bill. Check this space when the Legislature returns for more information.

## Massachusetts

S.B. 184, An Act to Prevent Identity Theft and Establish a Victims Bill of Rights, sponsored by Senator Jarret Barrios and Representative Michael Costello <a href="http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/senate/st00/st00184.htm">http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/senate/st00/st00184.htm</a>

Contact: MASSPIRG: Deirdre Cummings, Consumer Program Director

Eric Bourassa, Consumer Associate

Phone: (617) 292-4800

# Michigan

H.B. 4672, A Bill to Require Credit Reporting Agencies to Place Security Freezes on Certain Consumer Credit Information, sponsored by Representative Kathy Angerer <a href="http://www.legislature.mi.gov/mileg.asp?page=getObject&objName=2005-HB-4672">http://www.legislature.mi.gov/mileg.asp?page=getObject&objName=2005-HB-4672</a>

S.B. 377, A Bill to Require Credit Reporting Agencies to Place Security Freezes on Certain Consumer Credit Information, sponsored by Senator Gilda Jacobs <a href="http://www.legislature.mi.gov/mileg.asp?page=getObject&objName=2005-SB-0377">http://www.legislature.mi.gov/mileg.asp?page=getObject&objName=2005-SB-0377</a>

Status: HB 4672 introduced on April 26; SB 377 introduced on April 13

PIRGIM: Megan Owens, Consumer Advocate, Phone: (734) 662-6597

#### Minnesota

H.F. 1943, relating to consumer protection; authorizing a consumer to place a security freeze on the consumer's credit report

http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/bin/bldbill.php?bill=H1943.0&session=Is84

The Minnsesota Legislature finished without enacting this bill. Check this space when the Legislature returns for more information.

# Missouri

S.B. 506, introduced by Senators Dougherty, Green Bray, Wheeler, Days, Kennedy, Callahan and Wilson <a href="http://www.senate.mo.gov/05info/pdf-bill/intro/SB506.pdf">http://www.senate.mo.gov/05info/pdf-bill/intro/SB506.pdf</a>

The Missouri Legislature finished without enacting this bill. Check this space when the Legislature returns for more information.

# Nevada - Enacted

S.B. 80, sponsored by Senator Bob Beers <a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/73rd/bills/SB/SB80\_EN.pdf">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/73rd/bills/SB/SB80\_EN.pdf</a>

Contact: Senator Beers bbeers@sen.state.nv.us

# **New Jersey**

A 4001, The "Identity Theft Prevention Act" http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2004/Bills/A3500/4001\_I1.HTM

S 1914, The "Identity Theft Prevention Act" http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2004/Bills/S2000/1914\_I1.HTM

Contact: NJPIRG, Kerry Smith, Phone: (215) 732-3747

Awaiting action by the Governor

#### **New York**

A. 7349, Enacts provisions to prevent identity theft and mitigate detriments arising from identity theft http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A07349

## **North Carolina**

S.B. 1048, Identity Theft Protection Act of 2005, sponsored by Senator Clodfelter <a href="http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/Senate/PDF/S1048v2.pdf">http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/Senate/PDF/S1048v2.pdf</a>

H.B. 1248, Identity Theft Protection Act of 2005. http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/PDF/H1248v2.pdf

SB 629, Option to Freeze Credit Report. http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/PDF/H629v2.pdf

Contact: NCPIRG, Elizabeth Ouzts, Phone: (919) 833-2070

# Oregon

S.B. 627, An Act Relating to Credit Reporting Agencies, sponsored by Senator Prozanski http://landru.leg.state.or.us/05reg/measures/sb0600.dir/sb0627.intro.html

Contact: OSPIRG: Shannon Callahan, Staff Attorney, Phone: (503) 231-4181

Oregon legislature did not pass this bill in 2005. Check this space when the Legislature returns for more information.

# Pennsylvania

SB 180, An Act Providing for Protection From Identity Theft, by Corman, et al. http://www.trendtrack.com/texis/tt/pasearch/remove\_nums.htm/+/http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/BI/BT/200 5/0/SB0180P0251.HTM

Contact: PennPIRG, Beth McConnell, (215) 732-3747

# **Texas**

SB 100, sponsored by Senator Rodney Ellis, Relating to a request for placement of a security freeze on a consumer file maintained by a consumer reporting agency. This bill would strengthen an existing state statute in

Texas.

http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/cgi-

bin/db2www/tlo/billhist/Smatrix.d2w/report?LEG=79&SESS=R&CHAMBER=S&BILLTYPE=B&BILLSUFFIX=0010 0&SORT=Asc

Contact: TEXPIRG: Luke Metzger, Public Interest Advocate, Phone: (512) 479-7287

The Texas Legislature finished without enacting this bill. Check this space when the Legislature returns for more information.

# **South Carolina**

S. 423, Consumer Report Security Freeze, by Sheehan http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess116\_2005-2006/bills/423.htm

South Carolina legislature did not pass this bill in 2005. Check this space when the Legislature returns for more information.

## Utah

S.B. 39 Consumer Credit Protection Act Senator Charlene M. Walker http://www.le.state.ut.us/~2005/bills/sbillamd/sb0039s01.pdf

The Utah Legislature finished without enacting this bill. Check this space when the Legislature returns for more information.

# Washington - Enacted

S.B. 5418, An Act Relating to Placing a Security Freeze on a Credit Report Senators Berkey, Benton, Fairly, Shin, Kastama, Carrell, McAuliffe, Benson, Prentice, Delvin, Kohl-Welles, Keiser, Kline

http://www.leg.wa.gov/pub/billinfo/2005-06/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/5418.pdf

http://www.leg.wa.gov/pub/billinfo/2005-06/Pdf/Amendments/Senate/5418%20AMS%20BERK%20S1586.1.pdf

Contact: WASHPIRG: Robert Pregulman, Executive Director, (206) 568-2850

For information from <u>Consumers Union</u> about the value for consumers of a security freeze, please contact: Gail Hillebrand, Consumers Union, West Coast Office, (415) 431-6747

List updated 8-15-05