

**Department of Planning and Budget
2008 Fiscal Impact Statement**

1. Bill Number: HB607

House of Origin Introduced ___ Substitute ___ Engrossed
Second House ___ In Committee ___ Substitute ___ Enrolled

2. Patron: Eisenberg

3. Committee: Commerce and Labor

4. Title: **Freezing access to credit reports**

5. Summary: The bill authorizes any consumer to freeze access to his credit report. If a consumer has placed a freeze on his credit report, a consumer reporting agency is prohibited from releasing the credit report, or any information in it, without the consumer's express authorization. The measure provides a means by which a consumer can release his report, permanently, temporarily, or to a specific third party. Certain disclosures are exempt from the freeze. A consumer reporting agency may charge a fee of no more than \$5 for establishing a freeze, removing a freeze, or temporarily lifting a freeze; however, victims of identity theft shall not be charged a fee. Violations are a prohibited practice under the Consumer Protection Act.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: The bill does not have a fiscal impact.

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

8. Fiscal Implications: Existing resources may be used to investigate and enforce violations of the Consumer Protection Act.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/16/2008 dpbkbs

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cc: Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry