

---

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5261**

---

**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1997 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Hargrove, Winsley and Long)

Read first time 03/05/97.

1       AN ACT Relating to utilizing drivers' licenses and identicards to  
2 prevent welfare fraud; and creating new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.**   The intent of this act is to prevent  
5 duplicate assistance welfare fraud. Each year a significant amount of  
6 money is stolen from the department of social and health services by  
7 welfare recipients who establish themselves with multiple identities.  
8 This act will significantly reduce duplicate assistance welfare fraud  
9 by requiring welfare recipients to prove their identity by presenting  
10 an authentic Washington state driver's license or identicard. This act  
11 anticipates that the department of licensing will soon be introducing  
12 a new driver's license and identicard that cannot be fraudulently  
13 obtained or counterfeited.

14       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.**   EVALUATION STUDY.   The office of the  
15 attorney general shall contract with a consultant, to evaluate the  
16 usage of a finger-imaging system in Washington state for the purpose of  
17 reducing and preventing public assistance fraud. Elements of the  
18 evaluation shall include:

1 (1) A review of other states' experience in implementing finger-  
2 imaging systems for fraud reduction and prevention, including a summary  
3 of the costs and savings;

4 (2) An estimate, based upon Washington's welfare demographics and  
5 historical experience in public assistance fraud, of a finger-imaging  
6 system's costs and savings in Washington state, if implemented by the  
7 department of social and health services for the reduction and  
8 prevention of public assistance fraud;

9 (3) A description of how a department of licensing system,  
10 utilizing drivers' licenses and identicards with finger-imaging  
11 technology to authenticate the identity of public assistance  
12 recipients, would operate in conjunction with the department of social  
13 and health services' fraud prevention efforts. The consultant shall  
14 evaluate this element only if legislation establishing a voluntary or  
15 mandatory one-to-many finger-imaging system by the department of  
16 licensing is enacted by the 1997 legislature.

--- END ---