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**SENATE BILL 5261**

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**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1997 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Hargrove, Winsley and Long

Read first time 01/21/97. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to utilizing drivers' licenses and identicards to  
2 prevent welfare fraud; adding a new section to chapter 74.04 RCW; and  
3 creating a new section.

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

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

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.04 RCW  
16 to read as follows:

17 (1) No later than ninety days after the department of licensing  
18 starts requiring a one to many finger image search as a prerequisite to

1 receiving a driver's license or identicard, the department of social  
2 and health services shall require all recipients of public assistance  
3 to provide a valid Washington state driver's license or identicard  
4 before receiving assistance. For the purposes of this act, a valid  
5 Washington state driver's license or identicard is defined as one that  
6 is not expired.

7 (2) The department of social and health services shall adopt rules  
8 authorizing assistance under RCW 74.04.660 as an exception to the  
9 requirements in subsection (1) of this section.

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