
**State Government, Elections &
Information Technology Committee**

HB 2643

Brief Description: Repealing the electronic authentication act.

Sponsors: Representative Muri.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Repeals the Washington Electronic Authentication Act.

Hearing Date: 2/2/18

Staff: Travis Yonker (786-7383).

Background:

In 1998 the Washington Electronic Authentication Act (Act) was enacted for the purpose of facilitating commerce through electronic messages and to minimize incidences of forgery and fraud in electronic commerce. Under the Act, the Secretary of State (Secretary) has authority to regulate the following:

- the licensing of certification authorities, who issue digital certificates verifying the authenticity of digital signatures;
- the qualifications of operative personnel, who act as the agents of licensed certification authorities; and
- the recognition of repositories, which are systems for storing and receiving digital certificates and other information relevant to digital certificates.

The Secretary maintains public lists of licensed certification authorities and recognized repositories. Currently, there no licensed certification authorities or recognized repositories listed by the Secretary.

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The Act is repealed, as are all statutory references to the Act, including references to the definition of "digital signature," which is contained in the Act.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 26, 2018.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.