

## Committee on Banking and Insurance

### **HB 953 — Consumer Report Security Freezes**

by Rep. Harrison and others (SB 1302 by Senator Brandes)

The bill prohibits consumer reporting agencies (CRAs) from charging fees for placing, removing, or temporarily lifting a security freeze on a consumer report. A security freeze prevents a CRA from releasing the consumer report, credit score, or any information contained within the consumer report to a third party without the consumer's express authorization. Currently, Florida law permits a CRA to charge a consumer up to \$10 to institute a credit freeze.

In recent years, data breaches have increased in frequency, scale, sophistication, and severity of impact, resulting in more widespread identity theft. Currently, Florida law allows a consumer to freeze access to his or her consumer report, which prevents anyone from trying to open a new account or new credit under his or her name.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2018.

*Vote: Senate 36-0; House 113-0*