

By Representative Merchant

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public assistance; creating
3 s. 414.391, F.S.; requiring development of an
4 automated fingerprint imaging program for
5 public assistance applicants and recipients by
6 the Department of Children and Family Services,
7 in conjunction with the Department of Labor and
8 Employment Security; providing for rules
9 relating to use of information; requiring a
10 plan for implementation; providing for pilot
11 implementation and evaluation; providing
12 priority for use of funds from reducing fraud
13 to expand the program; authorizing request for
14 federal waivers; creating s. 414.392, F.S.;
15 requiring applicants for public assistance to
16 provide an automated fingerprint image before
17 receiving any benefits; providing an effective
18 date.

19
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21
22 Section 1. Section 414.391, Florida Statutes, is
23 created to read:

24 414.391 Automated fingerprint imaging.--

25 (1) In conjunction with the Department of Labor and
26 Employment Security, the Department of Children and Family
27 Services shall develop and implement a statewide program to
28 prevent public assistance fraud by using a type of automated
29 fingerprint imaging of adult and teen parent applicants for,
30 and adult and teen parent recipients of, public assistance
31 under this chapter.

1 (2) In adopting rules under this section, the
2 departments shall ensure that any automated fingerprint
3 imaging performed by the departments is used only to prevent
4 fraud by adult and teen parent recipients of public assistance
5 and is in compliance with state and federal disclosure
6 requirements.

7 (3) The departments shall prepare, by April 1998, a
8 plan for implementation of this program. Implementation shall
9 begin with a pilot of the program in one or more areas of the
10 state by November 1, 1998. Pilot evaluation results shall be
11 used to determine the method of statewide expansion. The
12 priority for use of the savings derived from reducing fraud
13 through this program shall be to expand the program to other
14 areas of the state.

15 (4) The departments shall request any waivers of
16 federal regulations necessary to implement the program within
17 the limits described in this section.

18 Section 2. Section 414.392, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 414.392 Applicant screening.--At the time of
21 application or reapplication, each adult or teen parent
22 applying for public assistance benefits under this chapter
23 must provide the state with an automated fingerprint image
24 performed by the state, before receiving any benefits.

25 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
26 law.

27
28
29
30
31

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

HOUSE SUMMARY

Provides for development and implementation of a statewide program for automated fingerprint imaging of public assistance applicants and recipients. Limits use of such imaging to the prevention of public assistance fraud. Directs the Departments of Children and Family Services and Labor and Employment Security to prepare a plan by April 1998 for implementation of the program. Requires pilot implementation by November 1, 1998. Provides for evaluation of pilot results to determine the method of statewide expansion of the program. Provides for use of savings from fraud reduction in expanding the program. Authorizes the departments to request federal waivers necessary for program implementation.