

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Biometrics Fact Sheet

- “Biometric Information” refers to any information about an individual based on their unique behavioral or physiological characteristics. The most commonly known form of biometric information is a person’s fingerprints, but also includes hand geometry recognition, voice and facial recognition, iris and retinal scans, and vein recognition.
- Certain academic and professional testing agencies currently require Alaskans to submit their biometric data to multinational corporations to access services. A United States passport is sufficient identification to travel to other countries and should be a suitable alternative form of identification.
- Many Alaskans are nervous about their biometric information being sold or stolen. Since biometric information is irreplaceable, this sharing of biometric data can cause Alaskans irreparable harm.
- Certain genetic disorders and medical conditions have been strongly correlated with biometric information, and customers could experience price discrimination based on facial recognition technology.
- Senate Bill 98 will ensure that biometric data is not disseminated to third parties without an individual’s consent, and will only be used for the purposes for which it was collected. SB-98 does not ban the collection of biometric data; it simply requires consent for collection and prohibits the sale or unauthorized distribution of the data.