



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Public Safety

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April 17, 2017

The Honorable Neal Foster
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Paul Seaton
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Finance Committee Co-Chairs,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information for consideration by the committee regarding the use of Division of Motor Vehicle (DMV) information by law enforcement, and to address the impact on law enforcement if DMV were to be restricted to retaining documents to the minimum scope and time period required under federal and state law.

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) and other law enforcement agencies use historical photos and documentation for cases of fraud, identity theft, sex trafficking, missing persons, identification of remains, and other public safety needs. Restrictions on the retention of photographs and application documents will hinder law enforcement in several ways. For example, current and archival photos are routinely used for:

- Creating missing persons flyers.
- Creating wanted persons flyers.
- Identifying deceased persons.
- Creating photo line ups (arrays) to help identify suspects.
- Photos are sent to troopers and other law enforcement officers in the field to help identify persons who do not have their driver's license or identification with them.
- When information is received that a wanted person is in another state, DPS will call the local agency or US Marshal Task Force (there is one in Anchorage) and ask for assistance. The US Marshal Task Force will ask for all relevant information we can send, including a photograph.
- When extraditing a person from another state the transporting officers have a photo of the person with them in case of escape.

The application documents are used for:

- Verifying the validity of an issued driver's license or identification card.
- Investigating identity theft.
- Reconciling similar appearing records or persons.
- Determining if multiple person records require consolidation.
- Several times a month, the Criminal Records and Identification Bureau receives complaints regarding perceived inaccurate information on a criminal or traffic record. The Bureau must investigate the source of the data and determine if, in fact, the information is incorrect. In order to complete the investigation, technicians access all available data, including driver's license application and photographic information.

Identity theft:

Without the retention of photos and documents, once a driver's license or identification card is issued there would be no way to verify that it was authentic. Without a record of the supporting documents, it would be difficult to establish if a lost or stolen license or identification was compromised. Accordingly, a victim of theft would have a more difficult time recovering from the theft of their identity.

When the State of Alaska issues a driver's license or identification, it is certifying that the person receiving the card is who they claim to be. The public trust requires that we be able to audit the issuance of identification documents to verify the identity of the person on the state issued card.

I prepared this document with the assistance of Captain Dan Lowden of the Alaska State Troopers, and Kathryn Monfreda, Chief of the Criminal Records & Identification Bureau. Should the committee have any questions Captain Lowden and Ms. Monfreda will be available on the phone during hearings.

Sincerely,



Allison Hanzawa
Legislative Liaison,

cc: Darwin Peterson, Legislative Director, Governor Bill Walker
Dan Lowden, Captain, Alaska State Troopers
Kathryn Monfreda, Chief of Criminal Records & Identification Bureau, DPS