

1 AN ACT relating to credit freezes and declaring an emergency.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 367.365 is amended to read as follows:

- 4 (1) (a) A consumer may elect to place a security freeze on the consumer's consumer  
5 report by written request, sent by certified mail, ~~that includes clear and proper~~  
6 ~~identification,~~ to a consumer reporting agency at an address designated by the  
7 consumer reporting agency to receive security freeze requests ~~[such request],~~  
8 or by the use of telephone, fax, or Web-based or other electronic method  
9 that the consumer reporting agency has established to receive security  
10 freeze requests. A request made pursuant to this subsection shall include  
11 clear and proper identification. A consumer reporting agency shall place a  
12 security freeze on a consumer's consumer report no later than ten (10)  
13 business days after receiving a ~~written~~ request made pursuant to this  
14 subsection for the placement of a security freeze from the consumer.
- 15 (b) When a security freeze is in place, information from a consumer's consumer  
16 report shall not be released to a third party without prior express authorization  
17 from the consumer. This subsection does not prevent a consumer reporting  
18 agency from advising a third party that a security freeze is in effect with  
19 respect to the consumer's consumer report.
- 20 (2) The consumer reporting agency shall, no later than ten (10) business days after the  
21 date the agency receives the request for a security freeze, provide the consumer with  
22 a unique personal identification number or password to be used by the consumer  
23 when providing authorization for the access to his or her credit file for a specific  
24 period of time. In addition, the consumer reporting agency shall simultaneously  
25 provide to the consumer in writing the process of placing, removing, and  
26 temporarily lifting a security freeze and the process for allowing access to  
27 information from the consumer's credit file for a specific period while the security

1 freeze is in effect.

2 (3) A consumer may request ~~[in writing]~~ a replacement personal identification number  
3 or password **in the same manner utilized in subsection (1) of this section to**  
4 **request the initial security freeze and shall also include clear and proper**  
5 **identification.**~~[ The request shall comply with the requirements for requesting a~~  
6 ~~security freeze under subsection (1) of this section.]~~ **No later than ten (10) business**  
7 **days after the date the consumer reporting agency receives the request for a**  
8 **replacement person identification number or password,** the consumer reporting  
9 agency shall~~[, not later than the tenth business day after the date the agency receives~~  
10 ~~the request for a replacement personal identification number or password,]~~ provide  
11 the consumer with a new, unique personal identification number or password to be  
12 used by the consumer instead of the number or password that was provided under  
13 subsection (2) of this section.

14 (4) If a third party requests access to a consumer report on which a security freeze is in  
15 effect, and this request is in connection with an application for credit, the third party  
16 may treat the application as incomplete.

17 (5) If the consumer wishes to allow his **or her** consumer report or credit score to be  
18 accessed for a specific period of time while a freeze is in place, the consumer shall  
19 contact the consumer reporting agency and request that the freeze be temporarily  
20 lifted and provide the following:

21 (a) Clear and proper identification;

22 (b) The unique personal identification number or password provided by the  
23 consumer reporting agency pursuant to subsection (2) or (3) of this section;  
24 and

25 (c) The proper information regarding the time period for which the report shall be  
26 available to users of the consumer report.

27 (6) A consumer reporting agency that receives a request from a consumer to

1 temporarily lift a freeze on a consumer report pursuant to subsection (5) of this  
 2 section shall comply with the request no later than three (3) business days after  
 3 receiving the request. A consumer reporting agency may develop procedures  
 4 involving the use of telephone, fax, the Internet, or other electronic media to receive  
 5 and process a request from a consumer to temporarily lift a freeze on a consumer  
 6 report or credit score pursuant to subsection (5) of this section in an expedited  
 7 manner.

8 (7) A consumer reporting agency shall remove or temporarily lift a freeze placed on a  
 9 consumer's consumer report only~~[in the following cases]:~~

10 (a) Upon the consumer's~~[consumer]~~ request made pursuant to subsection (5) or  
 11 (8) of~~[as provided in]~~ this section; or

12 (b) If the consumer's consumer report was frozen due to a material  
 13 misrepresentation of fact by the consumer. If a consumer reporting agency  
 14 intends to remove a freeze upon a consumer's consumer report pursuant to this  
 15 paragraph, the consumer reporting agency shall notify the consumer in writing  
 16 prior to removing the freeze on the consumer's consumer report.

17 (8) A security freeze shall remain in place until the consumer requests that the security  
 18 freeze be removed, or the consumer reporting agency has notified the consumer  
 19 in writing that it is removing the freeze due to a misrepresentation of fact by the  
 20 consumer pursuant to subsection (7)(b) of this section~~[but no longer than seven~~  
 21 ~~(7) years from the date the security freeze was put in place]~~. A consumer reporting  
 22 agency shall remove a security freeze within three (3) business days of receiving:

23 (a) ~~[A request for removal from the consumer; and, who provides]~~

24 (b) Both of the following:

25 1.~~[(a)]~~ Clear and proper identification; and

26 2.~~[(b)]~~ The unique personal identification number or password provided  
 27 by the consumer reporting agency.

- 1 (9) A security freeze does not apply to a consumer report provided to:
- 2 (a) A federal, state, or local governmental entity, including a law enforcement
- 3 agency, or court, or their agents or assigns;
- 4 (b) A private collection agency for the sole purpose of assisting in the collection
- 5 of an existing debt of the consumer who is the subject of the consumer report
- 6 requested;
- 7 (c) A person or entity, or a subsidiary, affiliate, or agent of that person or entity,
- 8 or an assignee of a financial obligation owing by the consumer to that person
- 9 or entity, or a prospective assignee of a financial obligation owing by the
- 10 consumer to that person or entity in conjunction with the proposed purchase of
- 11 the financial obligation, with which the consumer has or had prior to
- 12 assignment an account or contract, including a demand deposit account, or to
- 13 whom the consumer issued a negotiable instrument, for the purposes of
- 14 reviewing the account or collecting the financial obligation owing for the
- 15 account, contract, or negotiable instrument. For purposes of this paragraph,
- 16 "reviewing the account" includes activities related to account maintenance,
- 17 monitoring, credit line increases, and account upgrades and enhancements;
- 18 (d) A subsidiary, affiliate, agent, assignee, or prospective assignee of a person to
- 19 whom access has been granted under subsection (5) of this section for the
- 20 purposes of facilitating the extension of credit;
- 21 (e) A person~~[,]~~ for the purposes of prescreening as provided by the federal Fair
- 22 Credit Reporting Act;
- 23 (f) A consumer reporting agency for the purposes of providing a consumer with a
- 24 copy of his ***or her*** own report on ***the consumer's***~~[his]~~ request;
- 25 (g) A child support enforcement agency;
- 26 (h) A consumer reporting agency that acts only as a reseller of credit information
- 27 by assembling and merging information contained in the database of another

1 consumer reporting agency or multiple credit reporting agencies and does not  
2 maintain a permanent database of credit information from which new  
3 consumer reports are produced. However, a consumer reporting agency acting  
4 as a reseller shall honor any security freeze placed on a consumer report by  
5 another consumer reporting agency;

6 (i) A check services or fraud prevention services company, which issues reports  
7 on incidents of fraud or authorizations for the purpose of approving or  
8 processing negotiable instruments, electronic funds transfers, or similar  
9 methods of payments;

10 (j) A deposit account information service company, which issues reports  
11 regarding account closures due to fraud, substantial overdrafts, ATM abuse, or  
12 similar negative information regarding a consumer to inquiring banks or other  
13 financial institutions for use only in reviewing a consumer request for a  
14 deposit account at the inquiring bank or financial institution;

15 (k) Any person or entity using a consumer report in preparation for a civil or  
16 criminal action, or an insurance company in investigation of a claim; or

17 (l) Any insurance company for setting or adjusting a rate or underwriting for  
18 property and casualty insurance purposes.

19 (10) A consumer reporting agency may impose a reasonable charge on a consumer for  
20 initially placing, temporarily lifting, or removing a security freeze on a consumer  
21 file. The amount of the charge may not exceed ten dollars (\$10). On January 1 of  
22 each year, a consumer reporting agency may increase the charge for placing a  
23 security ~~freeze~~freeze ~~alert~~. The increase shall be based proportionally on changes to the  
24 Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers as determined by the United States  
25 Department of Labor with fractional changes rounded to the nearest twenty-five  
26 cents (\$0.25). ~~A~~~~An exception shall be allowed whereby the~~ consumer ***shall not***  
27 ~~will~~ be charged ***any fee***~~zero dollars~~ by the consumer reporting agency ***for***

1 placing the security freeze if the consumer is a victim of identity theft and, upon the  
2 request of the consumer reporting agency, provides the consumer reporting agency  
3 with a valid police report.

4 (11) If a security freeze is in place, a consumer reporting agency shall not change any of  
5 the following official information in a consumer report without sending a written  
6 confirmation of the change to the consumer within thirty (30) days of the change  
7 being posted to the consumer's file:

- 8 (a) Name;
- 9 (b) Date of birth;
- 10 (c) Social Security number; and
- 11 (d) Address.

12 Written confirmation is not required for technical modifications of a consumer's  
13 official information, including name and street abbreviations, complete spellings, or  
14 transposition of numbers or letters. In the case of an address change, the written  
15 confirmation shall be sent to both the new address and to the former address.

16 (12) Any person who willfully fails to comply with any requirement imposed under this  
17 section with respect to any consumer is liable to that consumer in an amount equal  
18 to the sum of:

- 19 (a) Any actual damages sustained by the consumer as a result of the failure;
- 20 (b) Any liquidated damages of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) and not  
21 more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000);
- 22 (c) Any punitive damages as the court may allow; and
- 23 (d) In the case of any successful action to enforce any liability under this section,  
24 the costs of the action together with reasonable attorney's fees as determined  
25 by the court.

26 (13) Any person, other than the named individual or individuals in the report, who  
27 obtains a consumer report, requests a security freeze, requests the temporary lift of a

1 freeze, or the removal of a security freeze from a consumer reporting agency under  
2 false pretenses or in an attempt to violate federal or state law shall be liable to the  
3 consumer reporting agency for actual damages sustained by the consumer reporting  
4 agency or one thousand dollars (\$1,000), whichever is greater.

5 (14) Any person who is negligent in failing to comply with any requirement imposed  
6 under this section with respect to any consumer is liable to that consumer in an  
7 amount equal to the sum of:

8 (a) Any actual damages sustained by the consumer as a result of the failure; and

9 (b) In the case of any successful action to enforce any liability under this section,  
10 the costs of the action together with reasonable attorney's fees as determined  
11 by the court.

12 (15) Nothing in KRS 367.363 to 367.365 shall be construed to limit or restrict the  
13 exercise of powers or the performance of the duties of the Attorney General  
14 authorized under any other provision of law to bring or seek redress for persons that  
15 violate KRS 367.363 to 367.365.

16 ➔Section 2. Whereas the prevalence of security breaches containing sensitive  
17 identifying information of consumers is on the rise, as is the accompanying risk of  
18 identity theft for those consumers exposed as a result of these breaches, an emergency is  
19 declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by the Governor  
20 or upon its otherwise becoming law.