

ACLU

Michigan

House Commerce and Tourism
House Bill 4658
Position: Support
March 5, 2020

Private businesses are increasingly requiring customers to show state-issued ID for everyday purchases - building large databases of personal information with every transaction. Scanning an ID provides companies an easy and cost-effective way to collect and use your personal information - for their own purposes. The ACLU of Michigan supports House Bill 4658 because individuals should be able to choose who gets their personal information and how the information is used.

Michigan driver's licenses and state-issued identification cards are intended to certify a person's identity or authorization to drive a motor vehicle. State-issued ID cards were not intended to facilitate data collection about shopping habits or lifestyle choices. Companies should be prohibited from creating databases about non-consenting individuals by collecting ID card data, which, in Michigan, includes information about your name, address, date of birth, sex, height, eye color, organ donor status, and driver's license number.

As more personal information is amassed in more databases, the likelihood increases that the information will be misused or stolen. Individuals are not able to protect the accuracy or distribution of their information when it is held by others. Companies that scan identification cards not only put people at risk, but often do so without the individuals ever knowing they gave up their information. Individuals should be able to choose who gets personal information and how the information is used.

HB 4658 would better protect individuals' privacy by banning private businesses from scanning state-issued ID cards and collecting, storing, using and/or sharing the personal information contained in the barcode, except in limited circumstances such as age verification and to prevent fraud. This legislation also takes important steps to restrict retention of personal data except for fraud protection and will prohibit selling information to third parties for marketing, advertising, or promotional activities. For these reasons, we ask this committee to support HB 4658.

Respectfully Submitted,

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