

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 1665

DATE: February 14, 2008

Version: As introduced

Authors: Gardner and others

Subject: Credit freeze charges

Analyst: Tom Pender, 651-296-1885

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

This bill adds to a state law enacted in 2006, which requires credit-reporting agencies, at a consumer's request, to "freeze" the consumer's credit information. This means that the information will not be released to anyone in connection with an extension of credit or the opening of a new account, with a few exceptions. The consumer has the right to give permission to have the freeze "lifted" for a particular requester or time period. This bill would require credit-reporting agencies to accept payment of fees they charge in connection with the freeze by methods other than a credit card.

Section

- 1 Fees.** Permits a consumer to use a variety of ways to pay fees charged by a credit-reporting agency in connection with a credit freeze initiated by the consumer. This applies to charges for placing, temporarily lifting, or removing the freeze. Our law does not permit charges if the consumer provides proof that the consumer was a victim of identity theft.