



A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to the Alabama Justice Information Commission;
to amend Sections 41-9-590, 41-9-594, 41-9-625, and 41-9-650,
Code of Alabama 1975, to mandate the collection and
dissemination of biometric identifiers by certain entities; to
authorize the use of certain approved biometric identification
devices by law enforcement officers to identify individuals;
to establish and provide for the operation of the Alabama
Background Check Service; to add Sections 41-9-650.1,
41-9-650.2, 41-9-650.3, 41-9-650.4, and 41-9-650.5 to the Code
of Alabama 1975, to authorize the Alabama State Law
Enforcement Agency (ALEA) to perform authorized background
checks for noncriminal justice purposes; to provide for
approved types and uses of background checks for noncriminal
justice purposes; to authorize the Secretary of ALEA to
establish and collect fees for background checks for
noncriminal justice purposes; to establish the Alabama Rap
Back Program; to provide penalties for the misuse of a
background check report; to make conforming changes to update
terminology; to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to
update the existing code language to current style; and to
repeal Article 4 of Chapter 2 of Title 32, Code of Alabama



1975, regarding the dissemination of criminal history information.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 41-9-590, 41-9-594, 41-9-625, and 41-9-650, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§41-9-590

When used in this article, the following terms ~~shall~~ have the following meanings, ~~respectively, unless the context clearly indicates a different meaning:~~

(1) AJIC or COMMISSION. The Alabama Justice Information Commission.

(2) ALEA. The Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency.

(3) ALEA CJIS. The Criminal Justice Information Services Division of ALEA.

(4) BACKGROUND CHECK. A report produced by one or more information systems within ALEA that identifies a specific individual's criminal history record within the state criminal history repository. The report may also include criminal history record information from the national criminal history repository maintained by the FBI or other public safety-related information maintained or accessed through the authority of ALEA.

(5) BIOMETRIC DATA. Data derived from analyzing an individual's biometric identifiers.

(6) BIOMETRIC IDENTIFIERS. Intrinsic physical or behavioral traits of humans used to uniquely identify or verify an individual's identity from within a population.



organization, and property, when accompanied by any personally identifiable information, bond conditions and provisions, an individual's identity history data, biographic information, ~~case/incident~~ case or incident history reports~~data~~, and any other data deemed criminal justice information by the FBI CJIS Security Policy. ~~The term also includes ALEA-provided or FBI CJIS-provided data necessary to make hiring decisions.~~ In addition, the term may refer to the ALEA CJIS-provided or FBI CJIS-provided data necessary for civil agencies to perform their missions, including, but not limited to, data used to make hiring decisions.

~~(5)~~ (12) FBI. The Federal Bureau of Investigation.
(13) ~~CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION or~~
FBI CJIS. ~~The division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that equips law enforcement, national security, and intelligence community partners with needed criminal justice information.~~ The Criminal Justice Information Services Division of the FBI that is responsible for the collection, warehousing, and timely dissemination of relevant criminal justice information to the FBI and to qualified law enforcement, criminal justice, civilian, academic, employment, and licensing agencies.

(14) IDENTITY HISTORY DATA. Textual data that corresponds with an individual's biometric data, providing a history of criminal and civil events for the identified individual.

~~(6)~~ (15) INFORMATION SYSTEM. A system of people, data, and processes, whether manual or automated, established for



the purpose of managing information.

~~(7)~~ (16) NLETS. ~~Network provider~~ The national organization that provides for the exchange of criminal justice and public safety information ~~among multiple between~~ state, federal, and international criminal justice and public safety agencies.

~~(8)~~ (17) NLETS SYSTEM AGENCY ~~or NSA~~. The state agency responsible for the administration of ~~the NLETS network~~ information provided by NLETS to criminal justice and public safety agencies within this state and who provides a representative from the state for the governance of NLETS.

(18) NONCRIMINAL JUSTICE PURPOSE. The uses of criminal history records for purposes authorized by federal or state law other than purposes relating to the administration of criminal justice, including employment suitability, licensing determinations, immigration and naturalization matters, and national security clearances.

~~(9)~~ (19) OFFENSE. Any act that is a felony, misdemeanor, state violation, municipal ordinance violation, or violation, or an act of delinquency.

(20) RAP BACK. A system that enables authorized entities to receive ongoing status notifications of any criminal history reported by ALEA or the FBI on individuals whose fingerprints are registered in the ALEA CJIS biometric identity repository or the FBI CJIS national fingerprint file.

~~(10)~~ (21) SECRETARY. The Secretary of the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency.

(22) TEXTUAL DATA. Written or digital records



expressing information in written or printed language,
including words, sentences, and paragraphs.

~~(11) SBI. The State Bureau of Investigation.~~

~~(12)~~ (23) USER AGENCY. Any agency or entity that
subscribes to, accesses, or views any ALEA information system
or service provided under the authority of this article."

"§41-9-594

(a) The commission shall ~~establish its own~~ adopt rules
and policies for the performance of the responsibilities
~~charged to it in~~ under this article. Unless otherwise stated,
the rules of the commission are subject to the Alabama
Administrative Procedure Act, Chapter 22 of Title 41. ALEA may
establish procedures to implement the rules and policies of
the commission or as otherwise stated in state law.

(b) The commission shall ~~establish~~ adopt rules and
policies that will restrict the information obtained under
authority of this article to the items germane to the
implementation of this article and restrict the use of
information only to authorized persons and agencies.

(c) The chair of the commission shall appoint a Privacy
and Security Committee from the membership of the commission
who are elected officials, or their designees, consisting of a
chair and three members, to study the privacy and security
implications of sharing criminal justice information and to
formulate rule or policy recommendations for consideration by
the commission concerning the collection, storage,
dissemination, or usage of criminal justice information.

(d) The commission may adopt rules and policies



169 regarding the collection, storage, and dissemination of
170 criminal justice information that conform to the policies of
171 the FBI CJIS. ~~The commission may adopt rules and policies that~~
172 ~~permit ALEA to perform background checks for noncriminal~~
173 ~~justice purposes and may provide for the procedure for~~
174 ~~obtaining the records including, but not limited to, charging~~
175 ~~a fee not to exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25) for securing~~
176 ~~records through ALEA. All fees shall be deposited into the~~
177 ~~State Treasury to the credit of the Public Safety Fund and~~
178 ~~shall be used to cover the expenses for improving criminal~~
179 ~~history records and the state repository at ALEA.~~

180 ~~(c) Any rule or policy of the commission to the~~
181 ~~contrary notwithstanding, the police department of any college~~
182 ~~or university in this state which offers medical, nursing, and~~
183 ~~health care education, or which operates a hospital may~~
184 ~~request from ALEA a criminal background check on any person~~
185 ~~who applies for employment with the college or university, and~~
186 ~~ALEA may charge a background search fee of up to twenty-five~~
187 ~~dollars (\$25) from each applicant for each search conducted on~~
188 ~~the applicant. All fee proceeds from the background check fee~~
189 ~~shall be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the~~
190 ~~Public Safety Fund and shall be used to cover expenses for~~
191 ~~improving criminal history records and the state repository at~~
192 ~~ALEA.~~

193 (e) The commission may direct ALEA CJIS to establish
194 procedures, manuals, documents, forms or requirements; perform
195 tasks to facilitate federal and state law; and perform tasks
196 to facilitate rules or policies established by the commission.



197 These directives and ALEA CJIS's subsequent response are not
198 subject to APA approval, but must be approved by the
199 commission.

200 (f) ~~The~~ Unless otherwise provided by law, the
201 commission may establish a fee schedule for any services
202 rendered by ALEA under the authority of this article. All fees
203 shall be deposited into the State Treasury to the credit of
204 the Public Safety Fund and shall be used to support, develop,
205 maintain, and promote operations as authorized in this
206 article."

207 "§41-9-625

208 ~~(a) All persons in this state in charge of law~~
209 ~~enforcement and correctional agencies shall obtain biometric~~
210 ~~identifiers, which may include fingerprints, photographs, palm~~
211 ~~prints, retina scans, or other identifiers specified by the~~
212 ~~FBI, according to the biometric identification system at ALEA~~
213 ~~and the rules established by the commission of all persons~~
214 ~~arrested or taken into custody as fugitives from justice, and~~
215 ~~of all unidentified human corpses in their jurisdictions. All~~
216 ~~biometric identifiers collected according to this section~~
217 ~~shall be provided to ALEA according to the rules of the~~
218 ~~commission.~~

219 ~~(b) If any person arrested or taken into custody is~~
220 ~~subsequently released without charge or cleared of the offense~~
221 ~~through criminal justice proceedings, the disposition shall be~~
222 ~~reported by all state, county, and municipal criminal justice~~
223 ~~agencies to ALEA within 30 days of such action, and all of the~~
224 ~~information shall be eliminated and removed.~~



225 (a) When an individual is arrested for an offense, the
226 arresting agency shall obtain fingerprints, palm prints, a
227 mugshot, and descriptive information required to establish a
228 criminal history record. The arresting agency may obtain other
229 biometric identifiers, including iris scans; photographs of
230 scars, marks, or tattoos; and DNA. Any data submitted to ALEA
231 CJIS as required or authorized by this section shall be
232 provided to ALEA according to the commission-approved
233 procedures established by ALEA CJIS for inclusion in the state
234 biometric identification repository.

235 (b) When an individual is detained or taken into
236 custody as a fugitive from justice, the agency with custody
237 over the individual may obtain descriptive information
238 required to establish a criminal history record and biometric
239 identifiers, which may include fingerprints; photographs; palm
240 prints; iris scans; photographs of scars, marks, or tattoos;
241 DNA; or other identifiers specified by AJIC rule. Any data
242 submitted to ALEA CJIS as required or authorized by this
243 subsection shall be provided to ALEA according to the
244 commission-approved procedures established by ALEA CJIS for
245 inclusion in the state biometric identification repository. If
246 the individual is subsequently released without charge,
247 released to the jurisdiction of the underlying arrest, or
248 otherwise cleared of the charged offense through criminal
249 justice proceedings, the involved agency shall notify ALEA
250 CJIS of the disposition within 30 days. Upon receiving
251 notification, ALEA shall remove all information regarding the
252 detainment or custodial event from all ALEA CJIS information



253 systems.

254 (c) All agencies that recover an unidentified human
255 corpse shall obtain biometric identifiers and provide this
256 information and other recovery event-related information to
257 ALEA according to the rules established by the commission and
258 procedures established by ALEA CJIS for inclusion in the state
259 biometric identification repository.

260 (d) Any AJIS rule specifying other biometric
261 identifiers obtained under subsections (a), (b), or (c), shall
262 be subject to the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act,
263 Chapter 22 of Title 41.

264 (e) A law enforcement officer may use a biometric
265 identification device with access to the state and federal
266 biometric identification repositories to identify an
267 individual to the extent allowed by state law in situations
268 that provide the officer authority to request or otherwise
269 take action to identify an individual. The device must meet
270 FBI or AJIC standards to compare the captured identifier to
271 the state or federal biometric identification repositories.
272 The commission shall establish rules for the use of these
273 devices and the resulting information returned from the use."

274 "§41-9-650

275 ~~In addition to any other requirements, any agency,~~
276 ~~board, or commission in this state that issues a permit or~~
277 ~~license, by rule, may require a criminal background check~~
278 ~~through ALEA as part of its licensing or permitting~~
279 ~~requirements. Any agency, board, or commission adopting a rule~~
280 ~~requiring a background check shall be subject to rules and~~



~~procedures of the commission for the use of the background
check.~~

(a) ALEA shall establish and operate a service, to be
called the Alabama Background Check Service, that allows
authorized persons and entities, pursuant to Section
41-9-650.1, to obtain background checks on individuals for
noncriminal justice purposes.

(b) (1) AJIC shall adopt rules for the limited purpose
of the operation and use of the Alabama Background Check
Service in accordance with this act.

(2) ALEA CJIS shall establish procedures that are
consistent with the commission's rules.

(c) ALEA may contract with one or more vendors or other
third-party entities to facilitate any or all functions of the
service on behalf of ALEA."

Section 2. Sections 41-9-650.1, 41-9-650.2, 41-9-650.3,
41-9-650.4, and 41-9-650.5 are added to the Code of Alabama
1975, to read as follows:

§41-9-650.1

(a) For the noncriminal justice purposes specified
herein, ALEA may provide a background check to any of the
following persons or entities:

(1) Any public or private employer to screen a
prospective employee or contractor or for other employment
purposes.

(2) Any government agency, board, or commission with
legal authority to issue a license, permit, or certification
to screen an applicant for the issuance or renewal of the



license, permit, or certification.

(3) Any nonprofit or volunteer organization to screen a prospective or current volunteer of the organization.

(4) Any housing authority or lessor of rental property to screen a prospective or current resident.

(5) Any educational entity to screen student applicants, prospective or current volunteers involved with entity-related activities, or other individuals directly related to the operations or events of the entity and subject to the entity's authority.

(6) Any agency or organization established by federal or state law for an official purpose of the agency or organization.

(7) Any person or entity authorized by the rules of the commission to obtain a background check for noncriminal justice purposes.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by law, an individual who is the subject of a background check for noncriminal justice purposes shall provide express permission for the release of information to the authorized person or entity requesting the check prior to ALEA's dissemination of background check information. The subject's express permission shall be maintained, physically or digitally, by the requesting person or entity for a period of three years or for the term of the subject's association with the requester, whichever is longer.

(c) A background check may not be provided on any individual under 18 years of age without parental consent.



(d) Any person or entity that is authorized by state law to perform a background check or allowed by law to adopt rules requiring a background check is subject to the AJIC rules and ALEA procedures described in Section 41-9-650.

(e) The commission may require a person or entity to develop background check guidelines for the commission's review and approval prior to allowing the release of background check information to that person or entity.

(f) Background check information may only be disseminated for the specific purposes listed in this section. No person or entity that has received background check information from ALEA shall subsequently disseminate the background check information to any other person or entity.

(g) Any recipient of a background check record may be subject to an audit by ALEA CJIS.

§41-9-650.2

(a) The Alabama Background Check Service may be provided through a biometric-based or a name-based search for a background check record.

(b) A name-based search shall be initiated by submitting an individual's name to ALEA through an Internet web portal or other commission-approved mechanism, which shall allow for the electronic transfer of records and shall only return state information results.

(c) The response to a biometric-based search shall only be provided upon the receipt of biometric information by ALEA or a commission-approved third-party entity acting on behalf of ALEA that meets all FBI standards for biometric



identification collection. This search shall provide state information results, as well as other state and federal information as allowed by law.

(d) An applicant for a license, permit, or certification shall provide the issuing government agency, board, or commission with his or her name, date of birth, Social Security number, and express permission for the release of information on a form sworn by the applicant. This information shall be digitally provided to ALEA. If a biometric-based check is requested, the applicant shall submit fingerprints or other biometrics in accordance with AJIC rules and ALEA CJIS procedures. If a national record check is required, ALEA shall forward or process the applicant's prints or other biometrics to the FBI for a national criminal background check in a manner consistent with federal law.

§41-9-650.3

(a) The secretary may establish reasonable record fees for the provision of a background check report, not to exceed thirty dollars (\$30). The record fee may be waived at the discretion of the secretary.

(b) Additional costs may be assessed to a person or entity requesting a background check for any of the following:

(1) The cost for a national criminal background check, as determined by the FBI.

(2) Financial transaction fees.

(3) A reasonable one-time account registration fee.

(c) ALEA may enter into an agreement with one or more vendors or other third-party entities to perform background



check services for ALEA on the basis of fee sharing or by adding an additional convenience fee for third-party services.

(d) Requests for background checks made by the Alabama Peace Officers' Standards and Training Commission or by any criminal justice agency are exempt from fees established pursuant to this section if the request is made for criminal justice purposes or for the purpose of making an employment suitability decision.

(e) All monies received for background checks shall be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the Public Safety Fund. The monies shall be used for the purposes of ALEA CJIS and for other ALEA expenses as determined by the secretary.

§41-9-650.4

(a) As part of the Alabama Background Check Service, ALEA may establish the Alabama Rap Back Program. If established, ALEA shall participate in the FBI's Next Generation Identification (NGI) Rap Back Service. The purpose of the rap back service is to allow ALEA to notify participating entities when an enrolled individual is the subject of a rap back notification event, including, but not limited to, being arrested for or convicted of an offense.

(b) As used in this section, the following words have the following meanings:

(1) INDIVIDUAL. Any individual who has undergone a fingerprint-based background check in order to care for children, the disabled, or the elderly, or to be licensed, certified, or to perform volunteer service, or for any other



FBI or federally authorized purpose with a participating entity and who has been enrolled by that participating entity in the Alabama Rap Back Program.

(2) PARTICIPATING ENTITY. An entity with statutory authority to require an individual to undergo a fingerprint-based background check as a condition to care for children, the disabled, or the elderly, or to be licensed, certified, or to perform volunteer service, or for any other FBI or federally authorized purpose and has elected to enroll those individuals in the Alabama Rap Back Program.

(c) ALEA may submit fingerprints and accompanying records to the FBI to be retained in and advised through the FBI's NGI Rap Back Service when an enrolled individual is arrested for or convicted of a criminal offense. Fingerprints submitted to the FBI may be used for future searches, including latent searches.

(d) ALEA shall ensure that notification is made to the participating entity that enrolls an individual in the Alabama Rap Back Program when an FBI Rap Back report notification is received. The information contained in the notification shall be used by the participating entity for purposes of determining the eligibility of the continued service of the individual and shall not be further disseminated.

(e) ALEA shall adopt rules governing the operation and maintenance of the Alabama Rap Back Program and the removal and destruction of records on individuals who are deceased or who are no longer individuals as defined in this section. Such rules shall provide that a participating entity shall



disenroll any individual who is deceased or is no longer an individual as defined in this section within five business days of death or such event that no longer requires the individual to be enrolled in the Alabama Rap Back Program to ensure the prompt removal and destruction of records from the Alabama Rap Back Program.

(f) ALEA may assess an annual fee not to exceed twelve dollars (\$12) per individual enrolled in the Alabama Rap Back Program. The fee shall be paid by the participating entity enrolling an individual in the Alabama Rap Back Program. When more than one participating entity enrolls the same individual in the Alabama Rap Back Program, both participating entities shall be responsible for paying the full cost for maintenance and notification. Any fees collected shall be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the Public Safety Fund. Such monies shall be used for the purposes of ALEA CJIS and for other ALEA expenses as determined by the secretary.

(g) No participating entity authorized to submit fingerprints shall be considered negligent per se in a civil action solely because the entity elected not to enroll an individual in the Alabama Rap Back Program pursuant to this section.

(h) Prior to enrolling an applicant in the Alabama Rap Back Program, a participating entity shall ensure the applicant receives notice and access to documentation informing the applicant that his or her fingerprints shall be retained for the purpose of providing the participating entity notification of any subsequent modifications to the



applicant's criminal history record.

(i) ALEA may establish an in-state rap back service for any person or entity that does not qualify to receive information from the FBI Rap Back service but that has authority to require a state-only background check.

§41-9-650.5

(a) An individual commits the crime of misuse of a background check report if he or she does any of the following:

(1) Knowingly receives, disseminates, or otherwise uses a background check contrary to the purposes allowed by this article or otherwise allowed in law.

(2) Performs a background check on an individual without first receiving a release, when required, from the subject of the report.

(3) Willfully uses information submitted to the Alabama Rap Back Program for purposes not authorized in this article with the intent to harass or intimidate another individual.

(b) Misuse of a background check report is a Class B misdemeanor.

(c) Upon conviction for any violation of this section, the defendant may be ordered to pay restitution to the victim whose information was misused. Restitution shall include any pecuniary damages or loss to the victim ordered pursuant to a hearing held as provided in Section 15-18-67.

Section 3. Article 4 of Chapter 2 of Title 32, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the release of criminal history information, is repealed.



505 Section 4. This act shall become effective on October
506 1, 2026.