

SENATE BILL 630: PI Access to Criminal Court Records

2015-2016 General Assembly

| Committee: | Senate Judiciary I | Date: | April 28, 2015 |
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| Introduced by: | Sen. Brock | Prepared by: | Susan Sitze |
| Analysis of: | First Edition | | Committee Counsel |

SUMMARY: Senate Bill 630 would allow licensed private investigators to access the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) real-time criminal records information system.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Senate Bill 630 would require AOC to provide any licensed private investigator with access to search criminal records in the AOC real-time criminal information systems. The access would be limited to information systems containing general criminal case information maintained by the clerks, and would not include systems for the production of criminal process or other nonpublic information.

The AOC would be required to provide individual searches without charge except that AOC can charge initial set up fees to anyone who does not have access prior to July 1, 2015. All hardware, software, telecommunications charges, or other expenditures required for access would be the responsibility of the private investigator.

AOC would be provided information on who qualifies as a licensed private investigator and would be notified within 24 hours of any action to suspend or revoke a private investigator's license. AOC would be required to revoke access to anyone whose license is suspended or revoked, or who violates AOC's policies for access.

The bill would create a Class H felony for any of the following conduct:

- Using another person's AOC online identifier to access information systems.
- Allowing another person, other than persons directly employed by the private investigator, to make use of the access.
- Accessing the information knowing that the investigator's license is suspended or revoked.
- Distributing any information obtained to any person for any reason not directly related to the evaluation of the individual to whom the information pertains for the purposes of criminal record history checks without the express written consent of that person.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law.

O. Walker Reagan Director



Research Division (919) 733-2578

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