

services, which, in whole or in part, is owned by, under contract to, or operated for, on behalf of, or in conjunction with another person; (c) Destroys, takes, injures, or damages equipment or supplies used or intended to be used in a computer, computer system, or computer network; (d) Destroys, injures, or damages any computer, computer system, or computer network; or (e) Introduces any computer contaminant into any computer, computer system, or computer network, commits an offense against computer users.

(2) (a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c), whoever violates subsection (1) commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. (b) Whoever violates subsection (1) and: 1. Damages a computer, computer equipment, computer supplies, a computer system, or a computer network, and the monetary damage or loss incurred as a result of the violation is \$5,000 or greater; 2. Commits the offense for the purpose of devising or executing any scheme or artifice to defraud or obtain property; or 3. Interrupts or impairs a governmental operation or public communication, transportation, or supply of water, gas, or other public service, commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. (c) Whoever violates subsection (1) and the violation endangers human life commits a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(3) Whoever willingly, knowingly, and without authorization modifies equipment or supplies used or intended to be used in a computer, computer system, or computer network commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(4) (a) In addition to any other civil remedy available, the owner or lessee of the computer, computer system, computer network, computer program, computer equipment, computer supplies, or computer data may bring a civil action against any person convicted under this section for compensatory damages. (b) In any action brought under this subsection, the court may award reasonable attorney fees to the prevailing party.

(5) Any computer, computer system, computer network, computer software, or computer data owned by a defendant which is used during the commission of any violation of this section or any computer owned by the defendant which is used as a repository for the storage of software or data obtained in violation of this section is subject to forfeiture as provided under ss. 932.701 – 932.704.

(6) This section does not apply to any person who accesses his or her employer's computer system, computer network, computer program, or computer data when acting within the scope of his or her lawful employment.

(7) For purposes of bringing a civil or criminal action under this section, a person who causes, by any means, the access to a computer, computer system, or computer network in one jurisdiction from another jurisdiction is deemed to have personally accessed the computer, computer system, or computer network in both jurisdictions.

(History: s. 1, ch. 78-92; s. 11, ch. 2001-54.)

815.07 This chapter not exclusive. The provisions of this chapter shall not be construed to preclude the applicability of any other provision of the criminal law of this state which presently applies or may in the future apply to any transaction which violates this chapter, unless such provision is inconsistent with the terms of this chapter. (History: s. 1, ch. 78-92.)

SECTION 7213 – UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

(a) RETURNS AND RETURN INFORMATION -

(1) **FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AND OTHER PERSONS** – It shall be unlawful for any officer or employee of the United States or any person described in section 6103(n) (or an officer or employee of any such person), or any former officer or employee, willfully to disclose to any person, except as authorized in this title, any return or return information [as defined in section 6103(b)]. Any violation of this paragraph shall be a felony punishable upon conviction by a fine in any amount not exceeding \$5,000, or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both, together with the costs of prosecution, and if such offense is committed by any officer or employee of the United States, he shall, in addition to any other punishment, be dismissed from office or discharged from employment upon conviction for such offense.

(2) **STATE AND OTHER EMPLOYEES** – It shall be unlawful for any person [not described in paragraph (1)] willfully to disclose to any person, except as authorized in this title, any return or return information [as defined in section 6103(b)] acquired by him or another person under subsection (d), (i), (3), (B), (i), (1), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (12), (15) or (16) or (m) (2), (4), (5), (6), or (7) of section 6103. Any violation of this paragraph shall be a felony punishable by a fine in any amount not exceeding \$5,000, or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both, together with the cost of prosecution.

(3) **OTHER PERSONS** – It shall be unlawful for any person to whom any return or return information [as defined in section 6103(b)] is disclosed in an manner unauthorized by this title thereafter willfully to print or publish in any manner not provided by law any such return or return information. Any violation of this paragraph shall be a felony punishable by a fine in any amount not exceeding \$5,000, or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both, together with the cost of prosecution.

(4) **SOLICITATION** – It shall be unlawful for any person willfully to offer any item of material value in exchange for any return or return information [as defined in 6103(b)] and to receive as a result of such solicitation any such return or return information. Any violation of this paragraph shall be a felony punishable by a fine in any amount not exceeding \$5,000, or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both, together with the cost of prosecution.

(5) **SHAREHOLDERS** – It shall be unlawful for any person to whom return or return information [as defined in 6103(b)] is disclosed pursuant to the provisions of 6103(e)(1)(D)(iii) willfully to disclose such return or return information in any manner not provided by law. Any violation of this paragraph shall be a felony punishable by a fine in any amount not exceeding \$5,000, or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both, together with the cost of prosecution.

SECTION 7213A – UNAUTHORIZED INSPECTION OF RETURNS OR RETURN INFORMATION

(a) PROHIBITIONS –

(1) **FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AND OTHER PERSONS** – It shall be unlawful for-

(A) any officer or employee of the United States, or

(B) any person described in section 6103(n) or an officer willfully to inspect, except as authorized in this title, any return or return information.

(2) **STATE AND OTHER EMPLOYEES** – It shall be unlawful for any person [not described in paragraph (1)] willfully to inspect, except as authorized by this title, any return information acquired by such person or another person under a provision of section 6103 referred to in section 7213(a)(2).

(b) PENALTY –

(1) **IN GENERAL** – Any violation of subsection (a) shall be punishable upon conviction by a fine in any amount not exceeding \$1000, or imprisonment of not more than 1 year, or both, together with the costs of prosecution.

(2) **FEDERAL OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES** – An officer or employee of the United States who is convicted of any violation of subsection (a) shall, in addition to any other punishment, be dismissed from office or discharged from employment.

(c) **DEFINITIONS** – For purposes of this section, the terms "inspect", "return", and "return information" have respective meanings given such terms by section 6103(b).

(a) IN GENERAL –

(1) INSPECTION OR DISCLOSURE BY EMPLOYEE OF UNITED STATES – If any officer or employee of the United States knowingly, or by reason of negligence, inspects or discloses any return or return information with respect to a taxpayer in violation of any provision of section 6103, such taxpayer may bring a civil action for damages against the United States in a district court of the United States.

(2) INSPECTION OR DISCLOSURE BY A PERSON WHO IS NOT AN EMPLOYEE OF THE UNITED STATES – If any person who is not an officer or employee of the United States knowingly, or by reason of negligence, inspects or discloses any return or return information with respect to a taxpayer in violation of any provision of section 6103, such taxpayer may bring a civil action for damages against such person in a district court of the United States.

(b) EXCEPTIONS – No liability shall arise under this section with respect to any inspection or disclosure -

(1) which results from good faith, but erroneous, interpretation of section 6103, or

(2) which is requested by the taxpayer.

(c) DAMAGES – In any action brought under subsection (a), upon a finding of liability on the part of the defendant, the defendant shall be liable to the plaintiff in an amount equal to the sum of-

(1) the greater of –

(A) \$1,000 for each act of unauthorized inspection or disclosure of a return or return information with respect to which such defendant is found liable, or

(B) the sum of:

(i) the actual damages sustained by the plaintiff as a result of such unauthorized inspection or disclosure, plus

(ii) in the case of a willful inspection or disclosure or an inspection or disclosure which is the result of gross negligence, punitive

damages, plus

(2) the cost of the action.

(d) PERIOD FOR BRINGING ACTION – Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an action to enforce any liability created under this section may be brought, without regard to the amount in controversy, at any time within 2 years after the date of discovery by the plaintiff of the unauthorized inspection or disclosure.

SECTION 6103 – CONFIDENTIALITY AND DISCLOSURE OF RETURNS AND RETURN INFORMATION

(I) DISCLOSURE OF RETURNS AND RETURN INFORMATION FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN TAX ADMINISTRATION

(7) Disclosure of return information to Federal, State, and local agencies administering certain programs under the Social Security Act, the Food Stamp Act of 1977, or title 38, United States Code, or certain housing assistance programs

(A) Return information from Social Security Administration – The Commissioner of Social Security shall, upon written request, disclose return information from returns with respect to net earnings from self-employment (as defined in section 1402), wages (as defined in section 3121 (a) or 3401 (a)), and payments of retirement income, which have been disclosed to the Social Security Administration as provided by paragraph (1) or (5) of this subsection, to any Federal, State, or local agency administering a program listed in subparagraph (D).

(B) Return information from Internal Revenue Service – The Secretary shall, upon written request, disclose current return information from returns with respect to unearned income from the Internal Revenue Service files to any Federal, State, or local agency administering a program listed in subparagraph (D).

(C) Restriction on disclosure – The Commissioner of Social Security and the Secretary shall disclose return information under subparagraphs (A) and (B) only for purposes of, and to the extent necessary in, determining eligibility for, or the correct amount of, benefits under a program listed in subparagraph (D).

(D) Programs to which rule applies – The programs to which this paragraph applies are:

(i) a State program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act;

(ii) medical assistance provided under a State plan approved under title XIX of the Social Security Act or subsidies provided under section 1860D–14 of such Act;

(iii) supplemental security income benefits provided under title XVI of the Social Security Act, and federally administered supplementary payments of the type described in section 1616(a) of such Act (including payments pursuant to an agreement entered into under section 212(a) of Public Law 93–66);

(iv) any benefits provided under a State plan approved under title I, X, XIV, or XVI of the Social Security Act (as those titles apply to Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin islands);

(v) unemployment compensation provided under a State law described in section 3304 of this title;

(vi) assistance provided under the Food Stamp Act of 1977;

(vii) State-administered supplementary payments of the type described in section 1616(a) of the Social Security Act (including payments pursuant to an agreement entered into under section 212(a) of Public Law 93–66);

(viii)

(I) any needs-based pension provided under chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, or under any other law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

(II) parents' dependency and indemnity compensation provided under section 1315 of title 38, United States Code;

(III) health-care services furnished under section 1710(a)(1)(I), 1710(a)(2), 1710(b), and 1712(a)(2)(B) of such title; and

(IV) compensation paid under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, at the 100 percent rate based solely on unemployability and without regard to the fact that the disability or disabilities are not rated as 100 percent disabling under the rating schedule; and

(ix) any housing assistance program administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development that involves initial and periodic review of an applicant's or participant's income, except that return information may be disclosed under this clause only on written request by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and only for use by officers and employees of the Department of Housing and Urban Development with respect to applicants for and participants in such programs.

Only return information from returns with respect to net earnings from self-employment and wages may be disclosed under this paragraph for use with respect to any program described in clause (viii)(IV). Clause (viii) shall not apply after September 30, 2008.

Under state law, motor vehicle, driver license, and vehicular crash records are subject to public disclosure. The Driver Privacy Protection Act (DPPA) keeps your personal information private by limiting who has access to the information. (<http://www.flhsmv.gov/ddl/DPPAInfo.html>)

119.0712 Executive branch agency-specific exemptions from inspection or copying of public records.

(2) DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES.

(a) Personal information contained in a motor vehicle record that identifies an individual is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution except as provided in this subsection. Personal information includes, but is not limited to, an individual's social security number, driver identification number or identification card number, name, address, telephone number, medical or disability information, and emergency contact information. For purposes of this subsection, personal information does not include information relating to vehicular crashes, driving violations, and driver's status. For purposes of this subsection, the term "motor vehicle record" means any record that pertains to a motor vehicle operator's permit, motor vehicle title, motor vehicle registration, or identification card issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

(b) Personal information contained in motor vehicle records made confidential and exempt by this subsection may be released by the department for any of the following uses:

1. For use in connection with matters of motor vehicle or driver safety and theft; motor vehicle emissions; motor vehicle product alterations, recalls, or advisories; performance monitoring of motor vehicles and dealers by motor vehicle manufacturers; and removal of nonowner records from the original owner records of motor vehicle manufacturers, to carry out the purposes of Titles I and IV of the Anti Car Theft Act of 1992, the Automobile Information Disclosure Act (15 U.S.C. ss. 1231 et seq.), the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. ss. 7401 et seq.), and chapters 301, 305, and 321-331 of Title 49, United States Code.

2. For use by any government agency, including any court or law enforcement agency, in carrying out its functions, or any private person or entity acting on behalf of a federal, state, or local agency in carrying out its functions.

3. For use in connection with matters of motor vehicle or driver safety and theft; motor vehicle emissions; motor vehicle product alterations, recalls, or advisories; performance monitoring of motor vehicles, motor vehicle parts, and dealers; motor vehicle market research activities, including survey research; and removal of nonowner records from the original owner records of motor vehicle manufacturers.

4. For use in the normal course of business by a legitimate business or its agents, employees, or contractors, but only:

a. To verify the accuracy of personal information submitted by the individual to the business or its agents, employees, or contractors;

and

b. If such information as so submitted is not correct or is no longer correct, to obtain the correct information, but only for the purposes of preventing fraud by, pursuing legal remedies against, or recovering on a debt or security interest against, the individual.

5. For use in connection with any civil, criminal, administrative, or arbitral proceeding in any court or agency or before any self-regulatory body for:

a. Service of process by any certified process server, special process server, or other person authorized to serve process in this state.

b. Investigation in anticipation of litigation by an attorney licensed to practice law in this state or the agent of the attorney; however, the information may not be used for mass commercial solicitation of clients for litigation against motor vehicle dealers.

c. Investigation by any person in connection with any filed proceeding; however, the information may not be used for mass commercial solicitation of clients for litigation against motor vehicle dealers.

d. Execution or enforcement of judgments and orders.

e. Compliance with an order of any court.

6. For use in research activities and for use in producing statistical reports, so long as the personal information is not published, redisclosed, or used to contact individuals.

7. For use by any insurer or insurance support organization, or by a self-insured entity, or its agents, employees, or contractors, in connection with claims investigation activities, anti-fraud activities, rating, or underwriting.

8. For use in providing notice to the owners of towed or impounded vehicles.

9. For use by any licensed private investigative agency or licensed security service for any purpose permitted under this subsection. Personal information obtained based on an exempt driver's record may not be provided to a client who cannot demonstrate a need based on a police report, court order, or business or personal relationship with the subject of the investigation.

10. For use by an employer or its agent or insurer to obtain or verify information relating to a holder of a commercial driver's license that is required under 49 U.S.C. ss. 31301 et seq.

11. For use in connection with the operation of private toll transportation facilities.

12. For bulk distribution for surveys, marketing, or solicitations when the department has obtained the express consent of the person to whom such personal information pertains.

13. For any use if the requesting person demonstrates that he or she has obtained the written consent of the person who is the subject of the motor vehicle record.

14. For any other use specifically authorized by state law, if such use is related to the operation of a motor vehicle or public safety.

15. For any other use if the person to whom the information pertains has given express consent in a format prescribed by the department. Such consent shall remain in effect until it is revoked by the person on a form prescribed by the department.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (b), without the express consent of the person to whom such information applies, the following information contained in motor vehicle records may only be released as specified in this paragraph:

1. Social security numbers may be released only as provided in subparagraphs (b)2., 5., 7., and 10.

2. An individual's photograph or image may be released only as provided in s. 322.142.

3. Medical disability information may be released only as provided in ss. 322.125 and 322.126.

4. Emergency contact information may be released only to law enforcement agencies for purposes of contacting those listed in the event of an emergency.

(d) The restrictions on disclosure of personal information provided by this subsection shall not in any way affect the use of organ donation information on individual driver licenses or affect the administration of organ donation initiatives in this state.

(e)1. Personal information made confidential and exempt may be disclosed by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to an individual, firm, corporation, or similar business entity whose primary business interest is to resell or redisclose the personal information to persons who are authorized to receive such information. Prior to the department's disclosure of personal information, such individual, firm, corporation, or similar business entity must first enter into a contract with the department regarding the care, custody, and control of the personal information to ensure compliance with the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994 and applicable state laws.

2. An authorized recipient of personal information contained in a motor vehicle record, except a recipient under subparagraph (b)12., may contract with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to resell or redisclose the information for any use permitted under this section. However, only authorized recipients of personal information under subparagraph (b)12. may resell or redisclose personal information pursuant to subparagraph (b)12.

3. Any authorized recipient who resells or rediscloses personal information shall maintain, for a period of 5 years, records identifying each person or entity that receives the personal information and the permitted purpose for which it will be used. Such records shall be made available for inspection upon request by the department.

(f) The department may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this subsection and the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994, 18 U.S.C. ss. 2721 et seq. Rules adopted by the department may provide for the payment of applicable fees and, prior to the disclosure of personal information pursuant to this subsection, may require the meeting of conditions by the requesting person for the purposes of obtaining reasonable assurance concerning the identity of such requesting person, and, to the extent required, assurance that the use will be only as authorized or that the consent of the person who is the subject of the personal information has been obtained. Such conditions may include, but need not be limited to, the making and filing of a written application in such form and containing such information and certification requirements as the department requires.

(g) This subsection is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed October 2, 2012, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature