



New York State Conservation Council Inc.
8 East Main Street, Ilion, New York 13357-1899

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

Bill # **A 895** Gunther

Same as **S 3025** Ranzenhofer

Title: Protects certain information on hunting, fishing and trapping license and permit applications from disclosure.

This legislation would ensure that information provided by a license or permit applicant could not be disclosed outside of the DEC other than for limited, specified purposes.

Justification:

The NYSCC fully supports this legislation. Disclosure of this information outside of the DEC serves no legitimate governmental purpose, save for information necessary for justifiable investigative purposes. And there is no private need for access to this information on either a broad or individual basis. It is in the best interests of both the licensees and the general public to limit access to this information to specific requests for the legitimate purposes provided for in the legislation.

In the wrong hands, this information poses an unnecessary risk to public safety. This database contains sensitive personal information such as medical conditions, driver license number and physical attributes, the release of which would be an unwarranted intrusion into an individual's personal privacy. Moreover, the computerized nature of this database and the release in that format would provide for ease of distribution and anonymity of access.

With increasing recognition of the potential damage arising from identify theft and its impact on the personal and financial lives of individuals across the country, releasing an individual's personal information poses a substantial risk that their identity may be stolen. The right of hunters, trappers and anglers to maintain their personal privacy and security entails an obligation of government to protect from unnecessary disclosure personal information submitted to an agency for the limited purpose of obtaining a license or permit.

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