



CLEAR

House Ways and Means Committee Members,

My name is Tom Stein, Deputy General Counsel for CLEAR. Today I am writing in support of Senate Bill 543, which would allow for the optional use of biometrics to determine if an individual is old enough for the purchase of alcohol.

CLEAR allows individuals to quickly verify their identity through use of their fingerprints, irises or other biometrics to perform everyday functions like entering a sports stadium or get through airport security. Clear validates and authenticates a prospective members' identity and identity document (driver's license, passport, military ID) and then securely pairs that information with the individual's biometrics. Our secure system is SAFTEY Act certified through the Department of Homeland Security and has a FISMA HIGH designation under federal law that requires federal agencies to develop, document, and implement an information security and protection program.

Today CLEAR members are linking their CLEAR accounts to their Major-League Baseball tickets.com account and then using only their fingerprint at the Tigers games to produce their tickets. CLEAR members can add a credit card to their account in order for CLEAR to provide that information to process certain purchases. A Member can link other accounts as well, such as their Delta SkyMiles or Hertz Gold accounts, and then use CLEAR to check their bags, enter a Delta Lounge or drive off the Hertz lot. Clear is currently operating in over 30 airports and in over 20 major sports stadiums, including Comerica Park. We employ over 2100 people and have more than 4 million members across the country.

CLEAR is currently partnering with the New York Mets to facilitate payments and age verification at their stadium. A CLEAR Member will be able to use their fingerprint to link to their credit card information for processing the transaction. If the purchase includes alcohol their age will additionally be checked against their records with CLEAR. If the Member is 21 or over, the transaction will process. If they are under-21 the transaction will not process unless any alcoholic items are removed.

Across the county, CLEAR is working with legislatures and regulatory bodies to allow the use of this secure technology to verify the age of an individual attempting to purchase alcohol. In many states the regulatory framework or governing statute never envisioned this type of technology as a potential alternative to handing someone a physical identification card.

CLEAR believes this secure technology--which is 100% optional and voluntary by both businesses and users--puts consumers back in control of their information. Instead of handing an individual your driver's license which contains your name and your address, the user simply uses their biometrics to confirm they are old enough to make the purchase.

We look forward to working with the Legislature and stakeholders to modernize the law and allow for the use of this secure technology for age verification.

Tom Stein,
Deputy General Counsel