

## **UNDERSTANDING THE FACT ACT (FREE CREDIT REPORT)**

On December 4, 2003, President Bush signed into law the Fair and Accurate Credit Transaction Act of 2003, ensuring that all citizens are treated fairly when they apply for a mortgage or other form of credit.

This legislation provides consumer, companies, consumer reporting agencies, and regulators with important new tools that expand access to credit and other financial services for all Americans, enhances the accuracy of consumer's financial information, and helps fight identity theft. These reforms make permanent the uniform national standards of our credit markets, and institute new, stronger consumer protections.

Service availability:

- Western States: December 1, 2004
- Midwest States: March 1, 2005
- Southern States: June 1, 2005
- Eastern States: September 1, 2005

As this services becomes available, you will be able to request a free credit report from each of the major credit reporting agencies: Equifax, TransUnion, and Experian.

You will be able to order your credit report:

- **Online:**      [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)
- **Mail:**        **Annual Credit Report Request Service**  
                     **P.O. Box 105281**  
                     **Atlanta, GA 30348-5281**
- **Phone:**      **1-877-322-8228**

***Since Identity Theft is becoming more prevalent, you may consider ordering a free credit report quarterly, one from each credit bureau.***