



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 145

February Session, 2008

Substitute House Bill No. 5658

House of Representatives, March 25, 2008

The Committee on General Law reported through REP. STONE of the 9th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 42-470 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2009*):

3 (a) For the purposes of this section, "person" means any individual,
4 firm, partnership, association, corporation, limited liability company,
5 organization or other entity, but does not include the state or any
6 political subdivision of the state, or any agency thereof.

7 (b) Except as provided in subsection [(c)] (d) of this section, on and
8 after January 1, 2005, no person shall:

9 (1) Publicly post or publicly display in any manner an individual's
10 Social Security number. For the purposes of this subdivision, "publicly
11 post" or "publicly display" means to intentionally communicate or
12 otherwise make available to the general public;

13 (2) Print an individual's Social Security number on any card
14 required for the individual to access products or services provided by
15 such person;

16 (3) Require an individual to transmit such individual's Social
17 Security number over the Internet, unless the connection is secure or
18 the Social Security number is encrypted; [or]

19 (4) Require an individual to use such individual's Social Security
20 number to access an Internet web site, unless a password or unique
21 personal identification number or other authentication device is also
22 required to access the Internet web site; or

23 (5) Require an individual to provide his or her Social Security
24 number as a condition of such individual's leasing, purchasing or
25 receipt of products, goods or services.

26 (c) The provisions of subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of this section
27 shall not apply to: (1) Products or services provided by insurance
28 companies or state or federally licensed financial service institutions;
29 (2) the provision of, or billing for, health care or pharmaceutical-
30 related services and identification cards, except as specified in
31 subsection (d) of this section; (3) credit applications; and (4) products
32 or services provided by utility companies.

33 [(c)] (d) The provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall apply
34 with respect to group and individual health insurance policies
35 providing coverage of the type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (6),
36 (10) and (12) of section 38a-469 that are delivered, issued for delivery,
37 amended, renewed or continued on and after July 1, 2005.

38 [(d)] (e) This section does not prevent the collection, use or release of
39 a Social Security number as required by state or federal law or the use
40 of a Social Security number for internal verification or administrative
41 purposes.

42 [(e)] (f) Any person who wilfully violates the provisions of
43 subsection (b) of this section shall be fined not more than one hundred

44 dollars for a first offense and not more than five hundred dollars for a
45 second offense, and shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars
46 or be imprisoned not more than six months, or both, for each
47 subsequent offense.

| | | |
|---|------------------------|--------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>January 1, 2009</i> | 42-470 |

GL *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 09 \$ | FY 10 \$ |
|---|-------------------|----------|----------|
| Judicial Dept. | GF - Revenue Gain | Minimal | Minimal |
| Judicial Department (Probation); Correction, Dept. | GF - Cost | Minimal | Minimal |

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill makes it illegal to require an individual to provide his or her Social Security number as a condition of such individual’s leasing, purchasing, or receipt of products, goods or services.

Willful violations are punishable as follows: (1) for a first offense, a fine of up to \$100; (2) for a second offense, a fine of up to \$500; and (3) for a third and any subsequent offenses, a fine of up to \$1,000 and/or imprisonment for up to six months. Any revenue generated from fines imposed under the bill is expected to be less than \$50,000 (“minimal”) annually. It is anticipated that few offenders would be incarcerated or placed on probation under the bill and, consequently, any cost for incarceration or probation supervision would be minimal.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing cost identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation. The annualized ongoing revenue from fines would remain constant into the future since fine amounts are set by statute.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5658*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill prohibits any person, firm, corporation, or other entity, other than the state or its political subdivisions, from requiring an individual to provide his or her Social Security number as a condition of leasing, purchasing, or receiving products, goods or services, with certain exceptions. The law already restricts the use of Social Security numbers for other purposes (see BACKGROUND).

The bill exempts from its requirement:

1. products or services provided by (a) insurance companies or (b) state or federally licensed financial service institutions;
2. the provision of or billing for health care or pharmaceutical-related services and identification cards, except those exempt under current law;
3. credit applications; and
4. products or services provided by utility companies.

The penalty for willful violations is a fine of up to \$100 for the first offense; up to \$500 for a second offense; and up to \$1,000, six months in prison, or both, for each subsequent offense.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2009

BACKGROUND***Prohibition Against Publicly Disclosing Social Security Numbers***

With certain exceptions, the law prohibits individuals and businesses from publicly disclosing Social Security numbers. The prohibition does not prevent the numbers from being (1) collected, used, or released as required by state or federal law or (2) used for internal verification or administrative purposes.

The law also prohibits:

1. intentionally communicating or otherwise making available to the general public an individual's Social Security number;
2. printing anyone's Social Security number on any card that the person must use to access the person or entity's products or services;
3. requiring anyone to transmit his or her Social Security number over the Internet, unless the connection is secure or the number is encrypted; or
4. requiring anyone to use his or her Social Security number to access an Internet web site, unless a password or unique personal identification number or other authentication is also required to access it.

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/06/2008)