

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5774

As of February 15, 1995

Title: An act relating to the authority of the employment security department to share data.

Brief Description: Expanding the authority of the employment security department to share data.

Sponsors: Senators Pelz, Newhouse and Deccio; by request of Employment Security Department.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Labor, Commerce & Trade: 2/16/95.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE & TRADE

Staff: Jack Brummel (786-7428)

Background: With certain exceptions, the Employment Security Department is obligated to keep records regarding individuals and employers confidential. One of the exceptions to this requirement is in instances where the department contracts with private persons or organizations for services. In such instances, the contractee is bound by the same rules of privacy and confidentiality as Employment Security Department employees. Unsanctioned release of private information subjects a contractee to a \$500 fine.

Summary of Bill: The department may share confidential information when it contracts with public entities to carry out department operations. Public contractees are subject to confidentiality requirements. Unsanctioned release of private information subjects contractees to a \$5,000 fine and other applicable sanctions under state and federal laws.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 10, 1995.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.