

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESSB 5274

FULL VETO

As Passed Legislature

Brief Description: Limiting disclosure of students' social security numbers.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Senators Schow, Hochstatter, Zarelli, Stevens, Strannigan, Rasmussen, Deccio, Benton, Roach, Horn and Winsley).

Senate Committee on Education

House Committee on Education

Background: Federal law (the Privacy Act of 1974) requires all governmental agencies requesting the disclosure of an individual's Social Security number to notify the individual of the following: (1) whether disclosure of the number is required or optional; (2) which authority permits the agency to request disclosure of the number; (3) how the number will be used; and (4) the consequences for failure to provide the number.

Currently, state laws do not provide limitations on a public school's request for disclosure of a student's Social Security number.

Summary: School districts are prohibited from requesting a student's Social Security number, except for employment purposes if the student is a school employee, for Medicaid reimbursement purposes, or when explicitly required by federal law. When a school district requests disclosure of a student's Social Security number, the school must use a consent form that contains a disclosure statement and is signed by the parent or guardian. The disclosure statement must include the following: (1) whether disclosure is mandatory or voluntary; (2) which federal or state statute or regulation requires the disclosure; (3) how the number will be used; and (4) who will have access to it. It is unlawful for a public school to deny a student any right, benefit, or privilege if a student or parent refuses to disclose the Social Security number.

No school employee may release a student's Social Security number without written consent, except in limited circumstances. The request for release must include the following: (1) whether disclosure is mandatory or voluntary; (2) which federal or state statute or regulation requires the disclosure; (3) how the number will be used; and (4) who will have access to it.

Schools may develop an individual student identification number, unrelated to the student's Social Security number, to maintain student records.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	45	4	
House	64	32	(House amended)
Senate	32	13	(Senate concurred)