

5274-S

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

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

SB 5274-S.E - DIGEST

(DIGEST AS PASSED LEGISLATURE)

Declares that a school district or public school may request the disclosure of a student's federal social security number for the purpose of seeking medicaid reimbursement for covered services to eligible students under RCW 74.09.5241 through 74.09.5256, or for the purpose of compliance with any other explicit federal law requiring such disclosure.

Declares that any school district or public school requesting the disclosure of a student's federal social security number under this act must use a form, to be signed by the parent or guardian, that contains a disclosure statement printed on the form.

Does not prohibit a school district from developing an individual student identification number, unrelated to the student's security number, to identify and maintain education records on students enrolled in the district.

VETO MESSAGE ON SB 5274-S

May 19, 1997

To the Honorable President and Members,
The Senate of the State of Washington
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5274 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to disclosure of students' social security numbers;"

The federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) provides strong safeguards of individual privacy:

- α Schools may not require a student or parent to provide a student's social security number;
- α Schools may not penalize a student or parent for not providing a social security number; and
- α Schools may not release a student's social security number without consent.

I have no objection to putting these important safeguards in state as well as federal law. However, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5274 goes beyond the federal safeguards by prohibiting schools from *requesting* social security numbers (with limited exceptions).

This legislation would prohibit using social security numbers for:

- α Student identification numbers;

- α Positive identification of two or more students with the same name;
- α Following student movement between schools; and
- α Tracking the college experience and employment of high school graduates.

In December of 1995 the Superintendent of Public Instruction adopted an official policy on Privacy and Confidentiality. In 1996 the Superintendent also distributed a suggested privacy and confidentiality policy for all school districts. I believe these policies, in conjunction with federal requirements, protect the privacy of Washington citizens.

I too have deep concerns about public and private entities requesting social security numbers. I welcome the legislature engaging in a comprehensive review of the use of social security numbers within our society and would join in efforts to restrict to whom social security numbers can be disseminated.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5274 in its entirety.

I am hereby returning, without my approval, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5274.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Locke
Governor