
HOUSE BILL 1932

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives O'Brien, Sump, Rolfes, Pearson, Appleton, Santos, Schual-Berke, Morrell, Kristiansen, Moeller and Ormsby

Read first time 02/01/2007. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to social security numbers; amending RCW 65.04.140;
2 adding a new section to chapter 42.56 RCW; adding a new section to
3 chapter 36.22 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 19.86 RCW;
4 prescribing penalties; providing an effective date; and declaring an
5 emergency.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 65.04.140 and 1886 p 163 s 1 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 (1) The county auditor in his capacity of recorder of deeds is sole
10 custodian of all books in which are recorded deeds, mortgages,
11 judgments, liens, incumbrances and other instruments of writing,
12 indexes thereto, maps, charts, town plats, survey and other books and
13 papers constituting the records and files in said office of recorder of
14 deeds, and all such records and files are, and shall be, matters of
15 public information, free of charge to any and all persons demanding to
16 inspect or to examine the same, or to search the same for titles of
17 property. It is said recorder's duty to arrange in suitable places the
18 indexes of said books of record, and when practicable, the record books
19 themselves, to the end that the same may be accessible to the public

1 and convenient for said public inspection, examination and search, and
2 not interfere with the said auditor's personal control and
3 responsibility for the same, or prevent him from promptly furnishing
4 the said records and files of his said office to persons demanding any
5 information from the same. The said auditor or recorder must and
6 shall, upon demand, and without charge, freely permit any and all
7 persons, during reasonable office hours, to inspect, examine and search
8 any or all of the records and files of his said office, and to gather
9 any information therefrom, and to make any desired notes or memoranda
10 about or concerning the same, and to prepare an abstract or abstracts
11 of title to any and all property therein contained.

12 (2) The county auditor may not publicly disclose or otherwise allow
13 public access to federal social security numbers contained in any
14 documents, records, or files maintained by the auditor unless:

15 (a) The individual to whom the federal social security number is
16 assigned gives his or her express written consent for the disclosure of
17 his or her federal social security number; or

18 (b) The disclosure is requested by a federal, state, or local
19 government agency.

20 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 42.56 RCW
21 to read as follows:

22 The federal social security numbers contained in the documents,
23 records, or files maintained by the county auditor under chapter 65.04
24 RCW or held by any other state or local agency, as defined in RCW
25 42.52.010, are exempt from disclosure under this chapter unless:

26 (1) The individual to whom the federal social security number is
27 assigned gives his or her express written consent for the disclosure of
28 his or her federal social security number; or

29 (2) The disclosure is requested by a federal, state, or local
30 government agency.

31 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 36.22 RCW
32 to read as follows:

33 Beginning July 1, 2007, the county auditor is required to remove,
34 or otherwise redact, the federal social security numbers from all
35 documents, records, or files it posts on the internet, releases in

1 response to a public records request or other requests for information,
2 or otherwise allows for public inspection under chapter 42.56 RCW.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 19.86 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 It shall be unlawful for any person, business, or corporation to
6 require an individual's federal social security number as a requirement
7 for doing business or providing a service unless that person, business,
8 or corporation has the express privilege under federal or state law.
9 For those persons, businesses, or corporations that are permitted to
10 collect and use federal social security numbers under federal or state
11 law, that number may not be used as an identification number on cards
12 or used on correspondence by either regular or electronic mail.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 19.86 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 In addition to the penalties provided for in this chapter, a
16 person, business, or corporation that uses federal social security
17 numbers without authorization shall be assessed a monetary penalty of
18 one hundred fifty dollars per day per violation.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate
20 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
21 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
22 July 1, 2007.

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