

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3261

To amend title II of the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect the integrity and confidentiality of Social Security account numbers issued under such title, and to prohibit the establishment in the Federal Government of any uniform national identifying number.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 1998

Mr. PAUL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title II of the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect the integrity and confidentiality of Social Security account numbers issued under such title, and to prohibit the establishment in the Federal Government of any uniform national identifying number.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Privacy Protection Act
3 of 1997”.

4 **SEC. 2. RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF THE SOCIAL SECUR-**
5 **RITY ACCOUNT NUMBER.**

6 (a) REPEAL OF PROVISIONS AUTHORIZING USE OF
7 THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBER.—Subpara-
8 graph (C) of section 205(c)(2) of the Social Security Act
9 (42 U.S.C. 405(c)(2)(C)) is amended by striking “(C)(i)
10 It is the policy” and all that follows through clause (vi)
11 and inserting the following:

12 “(C)(i) Except as otherwise provided in this para-
13 graph, no agency or instrumentality of the Federal Gov-
14 ernment, any State, any political subdivision of a State,
15 or any combination of the foregoing may use a social secu-
16 rity account number issued under this subsection or any
17 derivative of such a number as the means of identifying
18 any individual.

19 “(ii) Clause (i) shall not apply with respect to the
20 use of the social security account number as an identifying
21 number to the extent provided in section 6109(d) of the
22 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to use of the so-
23 cial security account number for social security and relat-
24 ed purposes).

25 “(iii) If and to the extent that any provision of Fed-
26 eral law enacted before January 1, 2000, is inconsistent

1 with the policy set forth in clause (i), such provision shall,
2 on and after such date, be null, void, and of no effect.”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

4 (1) Clauses (vii) and (viii) of section
5 205(c)(2)(D) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
6 405(c)(2)(D)(vii) and (viii)) are redesignated as
7 clauses (iv) and (v), respectively.

8 (2) Subsection (d) of section 6109 of the Inter-
9 nal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

10 (A) in the heading, by inserting “FOR SO-
11 CIAL SECURITY AND RELATED PURPOSES”
12 after “NUMBER”; and

13 (B) by striking “this title” and inserting
14 “section 86, chapter 2, and subtitle C of this
15 title”.

16 **SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO PRIVACY ACT OF**
17 **1974.**

18 Section 7 of the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a
19 note, 88 Stat. 1909) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (2)
21 and inserting the following:

22 “(2) The provisions of paragraph (1) of this sub-
23 section shall not apply with respect to any disclosure which
24 is required under regulations of the Commissioner of So-
25 cial Security pursuant to section 205(c)(2) of the Social

1 Security Act or under regulations of the Secretary of the
2 Treasury pursuant to section 6109(d) of the Internal Rev-
3 enue Code of 1986.”;

4 and

5 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
6 following:

7 “(b) Except with respect to disclosures described in
8 subsection (a)(2), no agency or instrumentality of the
9 Federal Government, a State, a political subdivision of a
10 State, or any combination of the foregoing may request
11 an individual to disclose his social security account num-
12 ber, on either a mandatory or voluntary basis.”.

13 **SEC. 4. PROHIBITION OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE UNIFORM**
14 **IDENTIFYING NUMBERS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as authorized under sec-
16 tion 205(c)(2) of the Social Security Act, any two agencies
17 or instrumentalities of the Federal Government may not
18 implement the same identifying number with respect to
19 any individual.

20 (b) IDENTIFYING NUMBERS.—For purposes of this
21 section—

22 (1) the term “identifying number” with respect
23 to an individual means any combination of alpha-nu-
24 meric symbols which serves to identify such individ-
25 ual, and

1 (2) any identifying number and any one or
2 more derivatives of such number shall be treated as
3 the same identifying number.

4 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

5 The provisions of this Act, including the amendments
6 made thereby, shall take effect January 1, 2000.

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