

A bill for an act

relating to consumer protection; modifying restrictions on the collection and use of Social Security numbers; amending Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 325E.59, subdivision 3; Minnesota Statutes 2007 Supplement, section 325E.59, subdivision 1.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2007 Supplement, section 325E.59, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Generally.** (a) A person or entity, not including a government entity, may not do any of the following:

(1) publicly post or publicly display in any manner an individual's Social Security number. "Publicly post" or "publicly display" means to intentionally communicate or otherwise make available to the general public;

(2) print an individual's Social Security number on any card required for the individual to access products or services provided by the person or entity;

(3) require an individual to transmit the individual's Social Security number over the Internet, unless the connection is secure or the Social Security number is encrypted, except as required by titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act and by Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 483.20;

(4) require an individual to use the individual's Social Security number to access an Internet Web site, unless a password or unique personal identification number or other authentication device is also required to access the Internet Web site;

(5) print a number that the person or entity knows to be an individual's Social Security number on any materials that are mailed to the individual, unless state or federal law requires the Social Security number to be on the document to be mailed. If, in

connection with a transaction involving or otherwise relating to an individual, a person or entity receives a number from a third party, that person or entity is under no duty to inquire or otherwise determine whether the number is or includes that individual's Social Security number and may print that number on materials mailed to the individual, unless the person or entity receiving the number has actual knowledge that the number is or includes the individual's Social Security number;

(6) assign or use a number as the primary account identifier that is identical to or incorporates an individual's complete Social Security number, except in conjunction with an employee or member retirement or benefit plan; or

(7) sell Social Security numbers obtained from individuals in the course of business.

Notwithstanding clauses (1) to (5), Social Security numbers may be included in applications and forms sent by mail, including documents sent as part of an application or enrollment process, or to establish, amend, or terminate an account, contract, or policy, or to confirm the accuracy of the Social Security number. Nothing in this paragraph authorizes inclusion of a Social Security number on the outside of a mailing or in the bulk mailing of a credit card solicitation offer.

(b) A person or entity, not including a government entity, must restrict access to individual Social Security numbers it holds so that only employees or agents who require access to records containing the numbers in order to perform their job duties have access to the numbers, except as required by titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act and by Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 483.20.

(c) This section applies only to the use of Social Security numbers on or after July 1, 2008.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2008.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 325E.59, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Coordination with other law.** (a) This section does not prevent the collection, use, or release of a Social Security number as ~~required~~ authorized by state or federal law or the use of a Social Security number for internal verification or administrative purposes.

(b) This section does not prevent the release of a Social Security number as part of a consumer report as defined in United States Code, title 15, section 1681a, paragraph (d), or in a request for such a report, that is furnished as a result of a transaction initiated by a consumer with the consumer's consent, furnished to a consumer's current or prospective employer with the consumer's consent, or furnished to a court or law enforcement agency.

3.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2008.