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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-SEVENTH SESSION

H. F. No. 2892

03/15/2012 Authored by Davnie; Murphy, E.; Kahn; Liebling; Simon and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Civil Law

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to data privacy; prohibiting the use of Social Security numbers in certain
1.3 health records; amending Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 325E.59, subdivision
1.4 1; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 62Q; 144.

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

1.6 Section 1. [62Q.022] USE OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS.

1.7 A health plan company shall comply with the restrictions on use of an individual's
1.8 Social Security number contained in section 325E.59.

1.9 Sec. 2. [144.2935] USE OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER PROHIBITED.

1.10 A provider may not request or record a patient's Social Security number in any
1.11 health record maintained by the provider.

1.12 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective August 1, 2012. Social security
1.13 numbers appearing in a health record on that date must be removed from the record and
1.14 destroyed by the provider no later than January 1, 2013.

1.15 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 325E.59, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

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

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

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

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

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

2.8 (5) print a number that the person or entity knows to be an individual's Social
2.9 Security number on any materials that are mailed to the individual, unless state or federal
2.10 law requires the Social Security number to be on the document to be mailed. If, in
2.11 connection with a transaction involving or otherwise relating to an individual, a person
2.12 or entity receives a number from a third party, that person or entity is under no duty to
2.13 inquire or otherwise determine whether the number is or includes that individual's Social
2.14 Security number and may print that number on materials mailed to the individual, unless
2.15 the person or entity receiving the number has actual knowledge that the number is or
2.16 includes the individual's Social Security number;

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

2.21 (7) if the person or entity is a health plan company as defined in section 62Q.01,
2.22 subdivision 4, request or record an individual's Social Security number in any record
2.23 maintained by the company relating to past, present, or future coverage for the provision
2.24 of health care to the individual; or

2.25 ~~(7)~~ (8) sell Social Security numbers obtained from individuals in the course of
2.26 business.

2.27 (b) For purposes of paragraph (a), clause (7), "sell" does not include the release of
2.28 an individual's Social Security number if the release of the Social Security number is
2.29 incidental to a larger transaction and is necessary to identify the individual in order to
2.30 accomplish a legitimate business purpose. The release of a Social Security number for the
2.31 purpose of marketing is not a legitimate business purpose under this paragraph.

2.32 (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (5), Social Security numbers may
2.33 be included in applications and forms sent by mail, including documents sent as part of
2.34 an application or enrollment process, or to establish, amend, or terminate an account,
2.35 contract, or policy, or to confirm the accuracy of the Social Security number. Nothing in

3.1 this paragraph authorizes inclusion of a Social Security number on the outside of a mailing
3.2 or in the bulk mailing of a credit card solicitation offer.

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

3.8 (e) This section applies only to the use of Social Security numbers on or after July
3.9 1, 2008.

3.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2012. Social Security
3.11 numbers appearing in a record on that date must be removed and destroyed by the health
3.12 plan company no later than January 1, 2013.