



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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January 20, 1998

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to Assembly Bill 227: Use of Social Security Number in Student Identification Number

Assembly Bill 227 was introduced on March 27, 1997 and referred to the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities. On December 17, 1997, that Committee adopted Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to AB 227 on a vote of 11 to 0, and recommended passage of AB 227, as amended by ASA 1, on a vote of 11 to 0.

SUMMARY OF ASA 1 TO AB 227

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to Assembly Bill 227 would prohibit the Board of Regents of the UW System, a Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) district board, a school board, and the governing body of a private school from assigning to any student enrolled in their respective institutions an identification number that is identical to, or incorporates, the student's social security number. The substitute amendment specifies that these entities would not be prohibited from requiring a student to disclose his or her social security number, nor from using a student's social security number if such use is required by a federal or state agency or private organization in order for the UW System, WTCS district board, school district or private K-12 school, or student to participate in a particular program.

The provisions of ASA 1 to AB 227 would take effect on January 1, 2000, and would first apply to students who are first enrolled in the UW System, a technical college or a school district on that date. As drafted, the initial applicability provision does not include private schools. An amendment to ASA 1 would be necessary to ensure that the provisions of the bill are applied consistently to students enrolled in all types of institutions.

Under current law, social security numbers are used at the UW at both the institution and System Administration levels for systemwide research and analysis, although the social security numbers of individual students are not reported or published. In addition, social security numbers are used for the receipt or exchange of information with external agencies and systems that also use social security numbers as identifiers, as well as for student employment and financial aid, which are required under federal law. As drafted, ASA 1 to AB 227 could be interpreted as prohibiting the use of social security numbers by the UW for other purposes including systemwide research and analysis of aggregate student data compiled using social security numbers; however, staff from the UW believe that this bill provision would allow these activities.

FISCAL EFFECT

The currently available agency fiscal estimates were prepared for the original bill and do not reflect the provisions of Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to AB 227. Based on discussions with staff from the UW System and WTCS, it appears that the costs of ASA 1 would consist primarily of programming costs associated with adding an additional data field to student databases for the new student identification number. The fiscal effects of ASA 1 for each agency are as follows:

Wisconsin Technical College System

According to WTCS Board staff, the cost to WTCS districts of adding a new field to the student record would be minimal, since it is assumed that districts could accomplish this in the process of performing normal record and database maintenance. WTCS staff indicate that these costs would be absorbed by the districts and, therefore, ASA 1 to AB 227 would have no state fiscal effect.

University of Wisconsin System

Costs to UW institutions, including UW-Extension, would also consist primarily of programming expenses. However, UW System staff indicate that an estimate of these costs is not available at this time, because they would depend, in part, on the type student information database used, which varies from campus to campus. Certain database systems are more easily modified to use a different student identification number than are others and some institutions may need to purchase new software.

One factor that could significantly reduce the potential cost of ASA 1 from the projected \$1.56 million one-time cost of the original bill, is the delayed effective date and initial applicability provisions, which would allow campuses to build the required changes into their campus technology plans. Further, some UW institutions have already begun using student identification numbers which do not include social security numbers or are in the process of doing so. According to UW System staff, any costs associated with ASA 1 to AB 227 would be funded through base reallocations within the University's budget.

Department of Public Instruction

The number of school districts which currently use social security numbers as student identification numbers, if any, is not known. Therefore, DPI staff indicate that it is not possible to determine the cost to school districts of assigning student identification numbers which do not include the students' social security number. ASA 1 to AB 227 would have no state fiscal effect.

Prepared by: Merry Larsen

MO# passage as amended

BURKE	Y	N	A
DECKER	Y	N	A
JAUCH	Y	N	A
SHIBILSKI	Y	N	A
COWLES	Y	N	A
PANZER	Y	N	A
SCHULTZ	Y	N	A
ROSENZWEIG	Y	N	A
GARD	Y	N	A
OURADA	Y	N	A
HARSDORF	Y	N	A
ALBERS	Y	N	A
PORTER	Y	N	A
KAUFERT	Y	N	A
LINTON	Y	N	A
COGGS	Y	N	A

AYE 16 NO 0 ABS 0

Substitute Amendment

MO# 1

BURKE	Y	N	A
DECKER	Y	N	A
JAUCH	Y	N	A
SHIBILSKI	Y	N	A
COWLES	Y	N	A
PANZER	Y	N	A
SCHULTZ	Y	N	A
ROSENZWEIG	Y	N	A
GARD	Y	N	A
OURADA	Y	N	A
HARSDORF	Y	N	A
ALBERS	Y	N	A
PORTER	Y	N	A
KAUFERT	Y	N	A
LINTON	Y	N	A
COGGS	Y	N	A

AYE _____ NO _____ ABS _____