

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOR 4/19/2007

LRB Number	07-0663/1	Introduction Number	AB-0102	Estimate Type	Original
Description Prohibiting use of social security numbers on state civil service examinations, prohibiting requests by merchants for customers' social security numbers, posting certain personal information in government records on the Internet, prohibiting access to certain public records and employer records containing the social security numbers of individuals, prohibiting a register of deeds from recording certain instruments that contain more than a partial social security number, prohibiting the number of credit inquiries as a factor in credit reports, granting rule-making authority, and providing penalties					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, the social security numbers (SSNs) and other information reported on individual income tax returns are confidential and cannot be disclosed, except under very limited circumstances. Information sharing agreements exist that allow the department of revenue to share SSNs and other information from the returns with some other state agencies, the federal government and other state departments of revenue under certain limited and specified circumstances. These agreements limit who may view the information and for what purposes it may be used.

Also under current law, SSNs of both the grantor and grantee of real property are generally required on the real estate transfer fee return, which is available to local registers of deeds, but is not available to the public. A register of deeds generally may not record any instrument that contains SSNs, and may remove or obscure characters of the SSN from instruments being recorded.

The bill provides that on or after January 1, 2009, if new or modified state or local government records contain SSNs or other information that would reveal the identity of an individual, that information must be deleted before access to the record would be permitted by someone who was not an officer or employee of the governmental unit or was not otherwise authorized to have access. Limited exceptions apply.

The bill is not expected to change the current treatment of confidential information contained in the individual income tax returns or real estate transfer fee returns. As such the bill would not have a significant fiscal effect.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications