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By/Representing: Julie

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STATE OF WISCONSIN – **LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU** – LEGAL SECTION (608–266–3561)

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The Council of State Governments

Winter 1999 · Volume 5 · Issue 1

IDENTITY THEFT:

Stealing Your Life Away

n today's world of easy credit and computer transactions, thieves have more opportunities to steal and misuse the identity of unsuspecting individuals. They have advanced from stealing identification from wallets and receipts to assuming someone's identity through pre-approved credit applications and accessing personal information stored in computer databases. A Federal Trade Commission spokesperson testified before a U.S. Senate subcommittee in May 1998 that individual thieves and organized identity-theft rings are using more sophisticated theft schemes - even taking low-level jobs with financial institutions to gain access to consumer credit reports or other identifying data.

Until recently, federal law and most state laws would not recognize a consumer as a

The Impact on Victims

It is often difficult for consumers to cleanse their credit reports of the perpetrators' bad acts. Victims must go through the time-consuming process of (1) trying to prove to lenders and credit reporting agencies that they were in fact victimized by identity theft and did not personally incur or authorize the perpetrators' charges; (2) having the erroneous information removed from their credit report; and (3) preventing the perpetrators' future activities from further damaging their records.

Source: Testimony before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Technology, Terrorism and Government Information by David Medine. associate director for credit practices, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, May 20, 1998



Thieves can easily access personal information from credit card applications and financial institution information.

victim of crime. Instead, "fraud laws treat the creditors as the victims because they incurred the financial loss," explains Cynthia Lamb, investigator in the Federal Trade Commission's Division of Financial Practices. To give legal recourse to the victims in these cases, at least nine states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Kansas, Massachusetts, Mississippi, West Virginia and Wisconsin) and Congress have passed laws against "identity theft" —

using someone else's personal identifying information (i.e., name, Social Security number, address, date of birth or mother's maiden name) in order to obtain something of value.

The Consumer Vanishes

The exact frequency and cost of identity theft is unknown. "Identity fraud can be an element in a variety of financial crimes, such as bank fraud, credit-card fraud, social-program fraud, tax-refund fraud, and mail fraud," according to the 1998 Government Accounting Office briefing report, Identity Fraud: Information on Prevalence, Cost, and Internet Impact is Limited. In the report, the GAO found no comprehensive estimates of the prevalence or costs of identity fraud. VISA reported to the GAO that U.S. fraud losses among its member banks for fiscal 1997 totaled \$490 million. The U.S. Public Interest Research Group, a consumer advocacy organization, estimates that 40,000 acts of identity theft occur each year.

The U.S. Secret Service's Financial Crimes Division, the federal agency with primary jurisdiction for investigations involving financial crimes, provided the GAO arrest and cost statistics of its financial-crime cases considered to be directly associated with identity fraud (see box). Between fiscal 1995 and 1997, the number of arrests rose from 8,806 to 9,455 and the costs increased from

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Stealing Your Life Away

\$442 million to \$745 million.

These numbers only tell part of the story. Law-enforcement officials and consumer advocates are quick to point out that immeasurable human costs result from identity theft. Though the victim is not



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State Trends reports on issues critical to state government leaders from state, regional and national perspectives. Drawing from current research, historical data and 50-state surveys, the publication tracks trends and provides timely information on the most creative solutions to problems faced by state governments.

State Trends is published quarterly by The Council of State Governments. Individual copies (\$15) and annual subscriptions (\$49.99) of State Trends can be ordered through CSG's publications sales department at (800) 800-1910.

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CSG's Mission Statement

CSG, the multibranch organization of the states and U.S. territories, chambions excellence in state government by working with state leaders across the nation and through its regions to put the best ideas and solutions into practice. To this end, CSG:

- · Builds leadership skills to improve decision-making;
- · Advocates multistate problem-solving and partnershtps;
- Interprets changing national and international conditions to prepare states for the future; and,
- Promotes the sovereignty of the states and their role in the American federal system.



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responsible for the debts accumulated by the thief (federal law limits a consumer's liability for credit card and banking fraud to \$50 per account), he or she is stuck with the bad credit record. In some instances, victims are even arrested for crimes the thief committed in their name.

The traumatic and arbitrary nature of identity theft is drawing attention to the crime. Many victims are uniting to ensure no one else suffers the devastation of identity theft. Edward Mierzwinski, consumer program director for the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, said, "These 'victims' are a force to be reckoned with. They have lived through a nightmare. It's largely due to their efforts that changes are being made."

Criminalizing Identity Theft

The ultimate frustration for identity-theft victims is being told that no crime has been committed against them. Financial institutions - seen as the victim under fraud laws often do not pursue the criminal because the losses do not justify the expense. With no law against identity theft on the books, lawenforcement officials cannot file a report on behalf of the consumer.

Congress recently made identity theft a federal crime by passing H.R. 4151, the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act of 1998, which President Clinton said he will sign. U.S. Rep. John Shadegg of Arizona, sponsor of the bill, said the federal law allows a "pre-emptive strike against fraud crime." Under current federal statutes, lawenforcement officials could arrest criminals only after they had used the stolen identity to

commit fraud. With H.R. 4151, just taking the social security number or assuming someone's identity is now a federal crime. The law also sets stiff penalties for identity theft, allows consumer victims to seek restitution from the criminal, and directs the FTC to establish a centralized complaints and consumer education service.

How will the federal law impact state identity theft laws? "H.R. 4151 does not preempt state laws, and should complement them by increasing awareness of the crime," Rep. Shadegg says. State law enforcement can use the federal law, but it was designed to be a tool for federal law-enforcement officials in cracking organized-crime rings. State lawenforcement officials may be more effective in pursuing the individual, case-by-case crimes. Also, victims usually contact local officials. who need a law to guide them. Sen. W. Scott Oelslager, who proposed a bill (S.B. 273) to criminalize identity theft in Ohio, said, "I agree that the state identity-theft law is still necessary."

John Byrne, senior council and compliance manager for the American Bankers Association, the nation's largest banking trade association, agrees. "Mirroring federal laws may allow state prosecutors to take up cases that federal prosecutors avoid due to limited resources," Byrne said.

Saving Private Information

Consumer advocates encourage lawmakers to move beyond criminalizing identity theft to prevent the crime. Lamb sees a role for state officials in public education, for example. "Iowa's

cont'd on page 10

Internet: www.csg.org

Stealing Your Life Away

attorney general recently put out an excellent brochure on identity theft," Lamb said.

"State officials can take steps to remove the Social Security number from circulation," said Beth Givens, project director of the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, a California nonprofit consumer education and advocacy program. To protect this critical piece of personal information from theft, some states already removed Social Security numbers from driver's licenses. Givens recommends removing them from mailing labels for state tax forms, cover pages of court documents, time cards, ID badges and student ID cards.

To increase consumer awareness of errors on credit reports, the USPIRG encourages state officials to require credit bureaus provide one free credit report annually to consumers upon request. (The federal Free Credit Reporting Act requires credit bureaus to provide credit

Arrests and Costs Relating to Identity Fraud

These figures include only the identity theft cases handled by the U.S. Secret Service. There are no comprehensive statistics on identity theft.

Fiscal	Total financial-	Financial-crimes arrests	Costs of identity
year	crimes arrests	involving identity fraud*	fraud (millions)**
1995	9,470	8,806	\$442
1996	9,220	8,686	450
1997	10,066	9,455	745

*Financial crimes generally involve identity fraud, as reflected in arrests.

**The costs of identity fraud are the actual costs or losses to victimized individuals and financial institutions. The Secret Service attributes the steep increase from 1995 to 1997 to its increased focus on high-dollar cases, improved training for agents and emerging technologies that create new opportunities for criminals.

Source: U.S. Secret Service data, "Identity Fraud: Information on Prevalence, Cost, and Internet Impact is Limited," Government Accounting Office, May 1998

credit grantors, particularly those who grant instant credit, that allow this crime to be committed so easily," Givens said. Consumer advocates' recommendations to state officials

> in this area include:

 Requiring financial institutions to destroy personally sensitive documents prior to disposal.

Allowing

consumers to block access to their credit reports to anyone without express authorization.

· Requiring credit applications match credit reports on at least four points of correspondence, such as exact name and exact address.

The credit industry does not agree that such requirements are necessary. "The banking industry has a long history of protecting privacy." Byrne said. In the past few years, the ABA has sent its members brochures on effective security measures and on training personnel to recognize the warning signs of identity theft.

"We already shred data, and requiring four identifiers would create an inconvenience for the consumer. There is no need to micromanage security measures," Byrne said.

Associated Credit Bureaus, Inc., an international trade association of consumer credit, mortgage reporting and collectionservice companies, agrees that legislating security mechanisms would be ineffective and burdensome. "Crime is a moving target, so it is difficult to make prescriptive measures today that will work tomorrow," said Stuart Pratt, vice president of government relations for ACB. "The industry can respond to crime strategies as they develop," Pratt said, pointing to the evolution of security measures (e.g., holograms, tamper-proof signature plates) in response to credit card fraud. "For the sake of a healthy credit economy, we should maintain the benefits of our high-tech system," Pratt said.

State officials addressing the growing problem of identity theft face tough choices. They must balance the desire to protect consumers with the demand for convenient, speedy financial transactions. +

Cindy Jusper Lackey is a policy analyst, The Council of State Governments, (606) 244-8163, cindyl@csq.org.

With no law against identity theft on the books, law-enforcement officials cannot file a report on behalf of the consumer.

reports to consumers upon request for a reasonable fee, usually \$8. At least six states — Colorado, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Vermont allow one free credit report per year.) "Colorado's credit report law (CRS 12-14.3-102) is an excellent model because it requires the credit bureaus to notify consumers of their rights and when a negative change is made to their report," Mierzwinski said.

"I would like to see the credit industry be made accountable for its part in the identity theft epidemic. It's the negligent practices of

nonvoters have towards both government and elections in general. This continued disenchantment of the electorate sends a clear and disturbing message to political leaders and state election officials: Elections are hard to understand, time-consuming and ultimately don't matter.

What Can States Do?

Given this sentiment, states are focusing on three specific areas in which they think innovation and creativity can make a difference in citizen participation: registration, education and simplification. Registration efforts have, over the last few years, become greatly simplified. Passage of the national Motor Voter Law in 1993 greatly increased national registration and started state election agencies on the path to other innovative registration efforts. California began a "Voter Registration Week" in which various groups come together to promote voter registration across the state. A nonpartisan project partnered with various industries such as technology and entertainment, the week-long campaign strives to make it impossible to go a day without citizens being reminded to register

equation that has been sorely lacking across the country. States are warming up to the fact that education, especially in elementary and high schools, can greatly increase the chance that students (and their parents) will vote. Montana is taking on low voter turnout with its "Building Excellence in Statewide Turnout" (BEST) program which focuses on the longterm commitment of citizens to participate in elections. Its message is that not only does your vote count today, but also tomorrow. "Our efforts focus on the long-term. We're committed to working with students, to make voting a regular part of their lives," said Joe Kerwin of the Montana Office of Elections.

Idaho launched its "Saved Ry The Bill" program in fall 1997 in an effort to educate high school students on the importance of civic leadership and understanding government. The program focuses on teaching students how the legislature works and how bills become law. "If you can get students excited about the legislative process, you get them one step closer to becoming part of that process," said program producer Joan Cartan-Hansen of Idaho Public Television. The program has enjoyed great success in creating future civic leaders and won a 1998 CSG Innovations Award.

States are warming up to the fact that education, especially in elementary and high schools, can greatly increase the chance that students (and their parents) will vote.

Twenty state election offices now maintain Internet Web sites from which a registration form can be downloaded, printed and mailed. States are promoting in overwhelming numbers "Get Out the Vote" campaigns. These efforts, traditionally the province of private and nonprofit groups, have resulted in joint public/private efforts to register voters.

Voter education is a factor in the election

Simplified voting is perhaps the most visible change states have made in the voting process. One noticeable alternative to standing in

line on election day is early voting. First conducted in Texas in 1988, early voting allows voters to cast their ballots at various satellite locations up to 40 days before the election. Texas experienced about one-third of voters voting early in 1994 and is optimistic about this year's potential.

Oregon is having tremendous success with voting by mail. Voters receive their ballots in the mail two to three weeks before the

International Voter Turnout Comparisons

Belgium93%	Germany 78%
Turkey 92%	Greece 77%
Italy89%	United Kingdom 76%
Luxembourg87%	Finland 72%
Austria86%	Spain70%
Iceland86%	Ireland 69%
Sweden86%	Portugal 68%
Denmark 83%	France 65%
Norway83%	Switzerland 47%
Netherlands 80%	United States 38%
source: The Center fo	or Voting and Democracy

election, complete the ballot at their leisure and mail it in free-of-charge. Votes are certified by matching the signature on the ballot with that on the voter's registration card. During the program's 15 years of operation, there has been only one documented case of voter fraud out of 10 million votes cast. Oregon reports that voting-by-mail increased turnout by 6 percent and is far less costly, reducing expenditures by more than 60 percent. "We want to make elections as easy and practical as possible," said Amy Cody of the Oregon Elections Division.

State Interest vs. State Responsibility

Without question, states are becoming more active and imaginative in their efforts to promote voter turnout. But the role of states in the election process is complex and costly. Additional programs and duties will almost certainly drain the already feeble resources of election divisions. In the end, though, states can only do so much to make Election Day special. The rest is up to the individual. Voter education and the simplification of the voting process mean nothing if people simply choose not to vote. For many Americans, the question is not "For whom to vote?" it's "Why vote at all?" +

John Mountjoy is a regional coordinator, The Council of State Governments, (606) 244-8156, jmountjoy@csg.org.



State of Misconsin 1999 - 2000 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1663/P1 RPN...:...... CMM

PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

AN ACT ...; relating to: creating a consumer privacy advocate in the department 1 2 of justice and making an appropriation. Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau This is a preliminary draft. An analysis will be provided in a later version. The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows: **SECTION 1.** 18.13 (4) of the statutes is created to read: 3 18.13 (4) CONSUMER PRIVACY ADVOCATE. Notwithstanding s. 165.06, the consumer privacy advocate does not have authority to initiate any action or proceeding concerning the issuance of obligations by the building commission under this chapter. 7 **SECTION 2.** 165.06 of the statutes is created to read: 8 9 165.06 Assistant attorney general — consumer privacy advocate. (1)

The attorney general shall designate an assistant attorney general on the attorney

(15/

SECTION 2

general's staff as the consumer privacy advocate. The consumer privacy advocate shall represent the consumer sinterests in issues concerning consumer privacy, including the purchase of products on the internet and the prevention of theft of the consumer's personal identifying information. The secretary of administration shall give the consumer privacy advocate written notices of all proceedings under subch. VII of ch. 16. The prosecutor of any action under s. 943.201, 943.392, 943.41 or 943.70 shall give the consumer privacy advocate written notices of all proceedings under those sections. The consumer privacy advocate shall be provided the minutes, reports, recommendations and any documents provided by or to the joint committee on information policy. Annually, the consumer privacy advocate shall report to the joint committee on information policy on the status of consumer privacy in this state.

- (2) The consumer privacy advocate may, on his or her own initiative or upon request of any committee of the legislature, formally intervene in all civil proceedings described in sub. (1) whenever such intervention is needed for the protection of consumer's rights to privacy, including the restriction of access to the consumer's personal identifying information and the prevention of fraudulent use of the consumer's personal identifying information on the internet.
- (3) Personnel of the department of administration shall, upon the request of the consumer privacy advocate, make such investigations, studies and reports as the consumer may request in connection with proceedings described in sub. (1), either before or after formal intervention. Personnel of state agencies shall, at the consumer privacy advocate's request, provide information, serve as witnesses in civil proceedings described in sub. (1) and otherwise cooperate in the carrying out of the consumer privacy advocate's functions. Formal intervention shall be by filing a statement to that effect with the examiner or other person immediately in charge of

¶0,

the proceeding. Upon filing the statement, the consumer privacy advocate shall be considered a party in interest with full power to present evidence, subpoena and cross—examine witnesses, submit proof, file briefs or do any other acts appropriate for a party to the proceedings.

(4) The consumer privacy advocate may appeal from administrative rulings to the courts. In all administrative proceedings and judicial review proceedings the consumer privacy advocate shall be identified as "consumer privacy advocate". This section does not preclude or prevent any division of any department or independent agency from appearing by its staff as a party in those proceedings.

SECTION 3. 165.06% of the statutes is created to read:

165.06% Assistant attorney general; consumer privacy advocate; authority. In carrying out his or her duty to protect the consumer sright to privacy, the consumer privacy advocate has the authority to initiate actions and proceedings before any agency or court in order to raise issues, including issues concerning constitutionality, present evidence and testimony and make arguments.

SECTION 4. 165.06% of the statutes is created to read:

advisory committee. The attorney general shall appoint a consumer privacy advisory committee under s. 15.04(1)(c). The consumer privacy advisory committee shall consist of not less than 7 nor more than 9 members. The members shall have backgrounds in or demonstrated experience or records relating to privacy protection, record security or information technology. The consumer privacy advisory committee shall advise the consumer privacy advocate consistent with his or her duty to protect the consumer privacy. The consumer privacy advisory

LRB-1663/P1 RPN....... SECTION 4

1	committee shall conduct meetings consistent with subch. V of ch. 19 and shall permit
2	public participation and public comment on consumer privacy advocate activities.
3	SECTION 5. 814.245 (2) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:
4	814.245 (2) (d) "State agency" does not include the consumer privacy advocate
5	or citizens utility board.
6	SECTION 6. Appropriation changes.
7	(1) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. In the schedule under section 20.005 (3) of the
8	statutes for the appropriation to the department of justice under section 20.455 (1)
9	(a) of the statutes, as affected by the acts of 1999, the dollar amount is increased by
10	\$120,700 for fiscal year 1999–00 and the dollar amount is increased by \$120,700 for
11	fiscal year 2000-01 to increase the authorized FTE positions for the department by
(12)	1.0 GPR attorney positions on the effective date of this subsection for the purposes
13	of the consumer privacy advocate.
14	Section 7. Effective date.
15	(1) This act takes effect on July 1, 1999, or on the day after publication
16	whichever is later.

(END)

DRAFTER'S NOTE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

LRB-1663/P1dn RPN...:...

I based this draft on 1999 Senate Bill 72, which creates an office of public intervenor in the department of justice. Your request suggested one staff attorney, so I appropriated half of the funds appropriated in SB72, which provided for two staff attorneys. I do not know exactly what kind of proceedings the consumer privacy advocate should be involved in, so I referred to the state information statutes and the criminal statutes relating to computers and personal identification. Attached are copies of statutory sections that I found relating to privacy, information technology and computers. Check those to see if additional duties should be added to the advocate's functions.

Robert P. Nelson Senior Legislative Attorney Phone: (608) 267–7511

DRAFTER'S NOTE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

LRB-1663/P1dn RPN:cmh:lp

March 23, 1999

I based this draft on 1999 Senate Bill 72, which creates an office of public intervenor in the department of justice. Your request suggested one staff attorney, so I appropriated half of the funds appropriated in SB72, which provided for two staff attorneys. I do not know exactly what kind of proceedings the consumer privacy advocate should be involved in, so I referred to the state information statutes and the criminal statutes relating to computers and personal identification. Attached are copies of statutory sections that I found relating to privacy, information technology and computers. Check those to see if additional duties should be added to the advocate's functions.

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State of Misconsin 1999 - 2000 LEGISLATURE

PZ LRB-1663/PX RPN:cmh:lp

PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

l	AN ACT to amend 814.245 (2) (d); and to create 18.13 (4), 165.06, 165.061 and
2	165.062 of the statutes; relating to: creating a consumer privacy advocate in
3	the department of justice and making an appropriation.
	Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau This is a preliminary draft. An analysis will be provided in a later version.
	The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:
4	SECTION 1. 18.13 (4) of the statutes is created to read:
5	18.13 (4) Consumer privacy advocate. Notwithstanding s. 165.061, the
6	consumer privacy advocate does not have authority to initiate any action or
7	proceeding concerning the issuance of obligations by the building commission under
8	this chapter.
9	Section 2. 165.06 of the statutes is created to read:
10	165.06 Assistant attorney general — consumer privacy advocate. (1)
11	The attorney general shall designate an assistant attorney general on the attorney

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and the standing convittees of the asse general's staff as the consumer privacy advocate. The consumer privacy advocate shall represent the consumers' interests in issues concerning consumer privacy, including the purchase of products on the internet and the prevention of theft of the consumer's personal identifying information. The secretary of administration shall give the consumer privacy advocate written notices of all proceedings under subch. VII of ch. 16. The prosecutor of any action under s. 943.201, 943.392, 943.41 or 943.70 shall give the consumer privacy advocate written notices of all proceedings under those sections. The consumer privacy advocate shall be provided the minutes, reports, recommendations and any documents provided by or to the joint committee on information policy Annually, the consumer privacy advocate shall report to the standing coantifices of the assemble and senter is the status of consumer privacy in this state.

- (2) The consumer privacy advocate may, on his or her own initiative or upon request of any committee of the legislature, formally intervene in all civil proceedings described in sub. (1) whenever such intervention is needed for the protection of consumers' rights to privacy, including the restriction of access to the consumer's personal identifying information and the prevention of fraudulent use of the consumer's personal identifying information on the internet.
- (3) Personnel of the department of administration shall, upon the request of the consumer privacy advocate, make such investigations, studies and reports as the consumer may request in connection with proceedings described in sub. (1), either before or after formal intervention. Personnel of state agencies shall, at the consumer privacy advocate's request, provide information, serve as witnesses in civil proceedings described in sub. (1) and otherwise cooperate in the carrying out of the consumer privacy advocate's functions. Formal intervention shall be by filing a statement to that effect with the examiner or other person immediately in charge of

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- the proceeding. Upon filing the statement, the consumer privacy advocate shall be considered a party in interest with full power to present evidence, subpoena and cross—examine witnesses, submit proof, file briefs or do any other acts appropriate for a party to the proceedings.
- (4) The consumer privacy advocate may appeal from administrative rulings to the courts. In all administrative proceedings and judicial review proceedings the consumer privacy advocate shall be identified as "consumer privacy advocate". This section does not preclude or prevent any division of any department or independent agency from appearing by its staff as a party in those proceedings.

Section 3. 165.061 of the statutes is created to read:

authority. In carrying out his or her duty to protect the consumers' right to privacy, the consumer privacy advocate has the authority to initiate actions and proceedings before any agency or court in order to raise issues, including issues concerning constitutionality, present evidence and testimony and make arguments.

Section 4. 165.062 of the statutes is created to read:

165.062 Assistant attorney general; consumer privacy advocate; advisory committee. The attorney general shall appoint a consumer privacy advisory committee under s. 15.04(1)(c). The consumer privacy advisory committee shall consist of not less than 7 nor more than 9 members. The members shall have backgrounds in or demonstrated experience or records relating to privacy protection, record security or information technology. The consumer privacy advisory committee shall advise the consumer privacy advocate consistent with his or her duty to protect the consumers' right to privacy. The consumer privacy advisory

whichever is later.

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1	committee shall conduct meetings consistent with subch. V of ch. 19 and shall permi
2	public participation and public comment on consumer privacy advocate activities.
3	SECTION 5. 814.245 (2) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:
4	814.245 (2) (d) "State agency" does not include the consumer privacy advocate
5	or citizens utility board.
6	Section 6. Appropriation changes.
7	(1) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. In the schedule under section 20.005 (3) of the
8	statutes for the appropriation to the department of justice under section 20.455 (1)
9	(a) of the statutes, as affected by the acts of 1999, the dollar amount is increased by
10	\$120,700 for fiscal year $1999-00$ and the dollar amount is increased by $$120,700$ for
11	fiscal year 2000-01 to increase the authorized FTE positions for the department by
12	1.0 GPR attorney position on the effective date of this subsection for the purposes of
13	the consumer privacy advocate.
14	Section 7. Effective date.
15	(1) This act takes effect on July 1, 1999, or on the day after publication

(END)



State of Misconsin 1999 - 2000 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1663/**½**2 RPN:cmh:ijs

PRELIMINARY DRAFT NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

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AN ACT to amend 814.245 (2) (d); and to create 18.13 (4), 165.06, 165.061 and 165.062 of the statutes; relating to: creating a consumer privacy advocate in the department of justice and making an appropriation.

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Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This is a preliminary draft. An analysis will be provided in a later version.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. 18.13 (4) of the statutes is created to read:

18.13 (4) Consumer privacy advocate does not have authority to initiate any action or proceeding concerning the issuance of obligations by the building commission under this chapter.

SECTION 2. 165.06 of the statutes is created to read:

165.06 Assistant attorney general — consumer privacy advocate. (1)

The attorney general shall designate an assistant attorney general on the attorney

general's staff as the consumer privacy advocate. The consumer privacy advocate shall represent the consumers' interests in issues concerning consumer privacy, including the purchase of products on the Internet and the prevention of theft of the consumer's personal identifying information. The secretary of administration shall give the consumer privacy advocate written notices of all proceedings under subch. VII of ch. 16. The prosecutor of any action under s. 943.201, 943.392, 943.41 or 943.70 shall give the consumer privacy advocate written notices of all proceedings under those sections. The consumer privacy advocate shall be provided the minutes, reports, recommendations and any documents provided by or to the joint committee on information policy and the standing committees of the assembly and senate dealing with privacy matters. Annually, the consumer privacy advocate shall report to the appropriate standing committees of the assembly and senate on the status of consumer privacy in this state.

- (2) The consumer privacy advocate may, on his or her own initiative or upon request of any committee of the legislature, formally intervene in all civil proceedings described in sub. (1) whenever such intervention is needed for the protection of consumers' rights to privacy, including the restriction of access to the consumer's personal identifying information and the prevention of fraudulent use of the consumer's personal identifying information on the Internet.
- (3) Personnel of the department of administration shall, upon the request of the consumer privacy advocate, make such investigations, studies and reports as the consumer may request in connection with proceedings described in sub. (1), either before or after formal intervention. Personnel of state agencies shall, at the consumer privacy advocate's request, provide information, serve as witnesses in civil proceedings described in sub. (1) and otherwise cooperate in the carrying out of the

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(16)

consumer privacy advocate's functions. Formal intervention shall be by filing a statement to that effect with the examiner or other person immediately in charge of the proceeding. Upon filing the statement, the consumer privacy advocate shall be considered a party in interest with full power to present evidence, subpoena and cross—examine witnesses, submit proof, file briefs or do any other acts appropriate for a party to the proceedings.

(4) The consumer privacy advocate may appeal from administrative rulings to the courts. In all administrative proceedings and judicial review proceedings the consumer privacy advocate shall be identified as "consumer privacy advocate". This section does not preclude or prevent any division of any department or independent agency from appearing by its staff as a party in those proceedings.

Section 3. 165.061 of the statutes is created to read:

authority. In carrying out his or her duty to protect the consumers' right to privacy, the consumer privacy advocate has the authority to initiate actions and proceedings before any agency or court in order to raise related to consumer privacy, including issues concerning constitutionality, to present evidence and testimony and to make arguments.

SECTION 4. 165.062 of the statutes is created to read:

165.062 Assistant attorney general; consumer privacy advocate; advisory committee. The attorney general shall appoint a consumer privacy advisory committee under s. 15.04 (1) (c). The consumer privacy advisory committee shall consist of not less than 7 nor more than 9 members. The members shall have backgrounds in or demonstrated experience or records relating to privacy protection, record security or information technology. The consumer privacy advisory

committee shall advise the consumer privacy advocate consistent with his or her			
duty to protect the consumers' right to privacy. The consumer privacy advisory			
$committee \ shall \ conduct \ meetings \ consistent \ with \ subch. \ Vof \ ch. \ 19 \ and \ shall \ permittee \ shall \ conduct \ meetings \ consistent \ with \ subch. \ Vof \ ch. \ 19 \ and \ shall \ permittee \ shall \ conduct \ meetings \ consistent \ with \ subch. \ Vof \ ch. \ 19 \ and \ shall \ permittee \ consistent \ consistent \ with \ subch. \ Vof \ ch. \ 19 \ and \ shall \ permittee \ consistent \ consis$			
public participation and public comment on consumer privacy advocate activities.			

SECTION 5. 814.245 (2) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:

814.245 (2) (d) "State agency" does not include the <u>consumer privacy advocate</u> or citizens utility board.

SECTION 6. Appropriation changes.

(1) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. In the schedule under section 20.005 (3) of the statutes for the appropriation to the department of justice under section 20.455 (1) (a) of the statutes, as affected by the acts of 1999, the dollar amount is increased by \$120,700 for fiscal year 1999–00 and the dollar amount is increased by \$120,700 for fiscal year 2000–01 to increase the authorized FTE positions for the department by 1.0 GPR attorney position on the effective date of this subsection for the purposes of the consumer privacy advocate.

SECTION 7. Effective date.

(1) This act takes effect on July 1, 1999, or on the day after publication, whichever is later.

1999–2000 DRAFTING INSERT FROM THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

insert anl:

This bill creates a consumer privacy advocate in the department of justice. Under the bill, the department of justice is given an additional attorney position and the attorney general is required to designate an assistant attorney general as the consumer privacy advocate. The advocate, under the bill, is required to represent the consumer's interest in issues concerning consumer privacy, such as the purchase of products on the Internet and the prevention of theft of a consumer's personal identification information. The advocate may intervene in civil actions related to information technology services provided by the state, misappropriation of personal identifying information, data alteration, financial card misuse and computer program and data misuse, if necessary to protect the consumer's right to privacy. The bill requires the department of administration to make investigations, studies and reports at the advocate's request related to these proceedings. Other state agencies are required by the bill to cooperate with the advocate in carrying out his or her functions.

The bill gives the consumer privacy advocate the authority to appeal from administrative rulings to the courts. In addition, the advocate may initiate actions before any agency or court related to consumer privacy issues and may present evidence and make arguments in those actions. The bill requires the attorney general to appoint a consumer privacy advisory committee to advise the consumer privacy advocate regarding his or her duties.



SUBMITTAL FORM

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU Legal Section Telephone: 266-3561 5th Floor, 100 N. Hamilton Street

The attached draft is submitted for your inspection. Please check each part carefully, proofread each word, and sign on the appropriate line(s) below.

Date: 5/19/99	To: Senator Erpenbach		
	Relating to LRB drafting number: LRB-1663		
Topic Create a consumer privacy advocate in DOJ			
Subject(s) Courts - miscellaneous			
1. JACKET the draft for introduction in the Senate or the Assembly (cleck only one). Only the requester under whose name the			
V			
drafting request is entered in the LRB's drafting records may authorize the draft to be submitted. Please			
allow one day for the preparation of the required copies.			
2. REDRAFT. See the changes indicated or attached			
A revised draft will be submitted for your approval with changes incorporated.			
3. Obtain FISCAL ESTIMATE NOW, prior to introduction			
If the analysis indicates that a fiscal estimate is required because the proposal makes an appropriation or			
increases or decreases existing appropriations or state or general local government fiscal liability or			
revenues, you have the option to request the fiscal estimate prior to introduction. If you choose to			
introduce the proposal without the fiscal estimate, the fiscal estimate will be requested automatically upon			
introduction. It takes about 10 days to obtain a fiscal estimate. Requesting the fiscal estimate prior to			
introduction retains your flexibility for possible rec	drafting of the proposal.		
If you have any questions regarding the above procedures, please call 266-3561. If you have any questions			
relating to the attached draft, please feel free to call me.			
	hart D. Nalaan, Sanian I agislatiya Attarnay		

Robert P. Nelson, Senior Legislative Attorney Telephone: (608) 267-7511



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Today 5/27 State of Misconsin 1999 - 2000 LEGISLATURE

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1999 SENATE BILL

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AN ACT to amend 814.245 (2) (d); and to create 18.13 (4), 165.06, 165.061 and

165.062 of the statutes; **relating to:** creating a consumer privacy advocate in

the department of justice and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates a consumer privacy advocate in the department of justice. Under the bill, the department of justice is given an additional attorney position and the attorney general is required to designate an assistant attorney general as the consumer privacy advocate. The advocate, under the bill, is required to represent the consumer's interest in issues concerning consumer privacy, such as the purchase of products on the Internet and the prevention of theft of a consumer's personal identification information. The advocate may intervene in civil actions related to information technology services provided by the state, misappropriation of personal identifying information, data alteration, financial card misuse and computer program and data misuse, if necessary to protect the consumer's right to privacy. The bill requires the department of administration to make investigations, studies and reports at the advocate's request related to these proceedings. Other state agencies are required by the bill to cooperate with the advocate in carrying out his or her functions.

The bill gives the consumer privacy advocate the authority to appeal from administrative rulings to the courts. In addition, the advocate may initiate actions before any agency or court related to consumer privacy issues and may present evidence and make arguments in those actions. The bill requires the attorney

general to appoint a consumer privacy advisory committee to advise the consumer privacy advocate regarding his or her duties.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 18.13 (4) of the statutes is created to read:

18.13 (4) Consumer privacy advocate does not have authority to initiate any action or proceeding concerning the issuance of obligations by the building commission under this chapter.

SECTION 2. 165.06 of the statutes is created to read:

The attorney general shall designate an assistant attorney general on the attorney general's staff as the consumer privacy advocate. The consumer privacy advocate shall represent the consumers' interests in issues concerning consumer privacy, including the purchase of products on the Internet and the prevention of theft of the consumer's personal identifying information. The secretary of administration shall give the consumer privacy advocate written notices of all proceedings under subch. VII of ch. 16. The prosecutor of any action under s. 943.201, 943.392, 943.41 or 943.70 shall give the consumer privacy advocate written notices of all proceedings under those sections. The consumer privacy advocate shall be provided the minutes, reports, recommendations and any documents provided by or to the joint committee on information policy and the standing committees of the assembly and senate dealing with privacy matters. Annually, the consumer privacy advocate shall report to the appropriate standing committees of the assembly and senate on the status of consumer privacy in this state.

- (2) The consumer privacy advocate may, on his or her own initiative or upon request of any committee of the legislature, formally intervene in all civil proceedings described in sub. (1) whenever such intervention is needed for the protection of consumers' rights to privacy, including the restriction of access to the consumer's personal identifying information and the prevention of fraudulent use of the consumer's personal identifying information on the Internet.
- (3) Personnel of the department of administration shall, upon the request of the consumer privacy advocate, make such investigations, studies and reports as the consumer may request in connection with proceedings described in sub. (1), either before or after formal intervention. Personnel of state agencies shall, at the consumer privacy advocate's request, provide information, serve as witnesses in civil proceedings described in sub. (1) and otherwise cooperate in the carrying out of the consumer privacy advocate's functions. Formal intervention shall be by filing a statement to that effect with the examiner or other person immediately in charge of the proceeding. Upon filing the statement, the consumer privacy advocate shall be considered a party in interest with full power to present evidence, subpoena and cross—examine witnesses, submit proof, file briefs or do any other acts appropriate for a party to the proceedings.
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165.061 Assistant attorney general; consumer privacy advocate; authority. In carrying out his or her duty to protect the consumers' right to privacy, the consumer privacy advocate has the authority to initiate actions and proceedings before any agency or court related to consumer privacy, including issues concerning constitutionality, to present evidence and testimony and to make arguments.

SECTION 4. 165.062 of the statutes is created to read:

advisory committee. The attorney general shall appoint a consumer privacy advisory committee under s. 15.04(1)(c). The consumer privacy advisory committee shall consist of not less than 7 nor more than 9 members. The members shall have backgrounds in or demonstrated experience or records relating to privacy protection, record security or information technology. The consumer privacy advisory committee shall advise the consumer privacy advocate consistent with his or her duty to protect the consumers' right to privacy. The consumer privacy advisory committee shall conduct meetings consistent with subch. V of ch. 19 and shall permit public participation and public comment on consumer privacy advocate activities.

SECTION 5. 814.245 (2) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:

814.245 (2) (d) "State agency" does not include the <u>consumer privacy advocate</u> or citizens utility board.

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(1) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. In the schedule under section 20.005 (3) of the statutes for the appropriation to the department of justice under section 20.455 (1) (a) of the statutes, as affected by the acts of 1999, the dollar amount is increased by \$120,700 for fiscal year 1999–00 and the dollar amount is increased by \$120,700 for fiscal year 2000–01 to increase the authorized FTE positions for the department by

1 1.0 GPR attorney position on the effective date of this subsection for the purposes of the consumer privacy advocate.

SECTION 7. Effective date.

(1) This act takes effect on July 1, 1999, or on the day after publication, whichever is later.

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(END)

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D-Note

This draft is identical to LRB-1663/1 and replaces that draft.

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DRAFTER'S NOTE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

LRB-3149/1dn RPN:cmh:jf

May 28, 1999

This draft is identical to LRB-1663/1 and replaces that draft.

Robert P. Nelson Senior Legislative Attorney Phone: (608) 267–7511

Barman, Mike

From:

Barman, Mike Wednesday, June 09, 1999 2:05 PM Laundrie, Julie LRB 99-3149/1 (per your request)

Sent: To:

Subject:



Mike Barman

Mike Barman - Program Asst. (PH. 608-266-3561) (E-Mail: mike.barman@legis.state.wi.us) (FAX: 608-264-6948)

State of Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau - Legal Section - Front Office 100 N. Hamilton Street - 5th Floor Madison, WI 53703



Wisconsin Senate

Donald J. Schneider Senate Chief Clerk

November 3, 1999

Mr. Steve Miller, Director Legislative Reference Bureau 100 N. Hamilton. Madison, WI 53703 Keep In File

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Dear Mr. Miller:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 41 (2) (b), I am requesting that the Legislative Reference Bureau have the Department of Administration prepare a Fiscal Estimate on Senate Bill 259, relating to creating a consumer privacy advocate in the department of justice and making an appropriation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Sincerely,

FRED A. RISSER Senate President