

2001 ASSEMBLY BILL 192

March 8, 2001 – Introduced by Representative POWERS, by request of Governor’s Task Force on Privacy. Referred to Committee on Personal Privacy.

1 **AN ACT to create** 19.68, 66.0118 and 895.66 of the statutes; **relating to:**
2 encouraging governmental entities and businesses to consider the use of
3 unique personal identifiers and to discontinue the use of social security
4 numbers.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, educational institutions (the University of Wisconsin System, technical college districts, and public and private schools) are prohibited from assigning to any student an identification number that is identical to or incorporates the student’s social security number. Educational institutions may also assign to each of their enrolled students a unique identification number.

This bill requires each political subdivision (a city, village, town, or county) and state governmental entity to investigate the feasibility of developing and using a unique personal identifier for any individual who receives or may receive any type of service from the political subdivision or state governmental entity. A unique personal identifier is defined as any combination of numbers, letters, or characters, other than a social security number, that may be used to identify a particular individual. The bill also requires a political subdivision and state governmental entity, where appropriate, to consider substituting the use of a unique personal identifier for the use of a social security number.

In addition, the bill requires that every business entity doing business in this state investigate the feasibility of developing and using a unique personal identifier for any individual who receives or may receive any type of service or product from

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the business entity. Under the bill, unless otherwise required by law to use a social security number, if a business entity determines that a unique personal identifier may be appropriately substituted for an individual's social security number, the business entity must consider using the unique personal identifier rather than the social security number for all purposes relating to sending documents to an individual and for identifying an individual.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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

1 **SECTION 1.** 19.68 of the statutes is created to read:

2 **19.68 Unique personal identifiers, social security numbers. (1)** In this
3 section, “unique personal identifier” means any combination of numbers, letters, or
4 characters, other than a social security number, that may be used to identify a
5 particular individual.

6 **(2)** Each state authority shall investigate the feasibility of developing and
7 using a unique personal identifier for any individual who receives or may receive any
8 type of service from the state authority. Unless required by law to use a social
9 security number, if a state authority determines that a unique personal identifier
10 may be appropriately substituted for an individual's social security number, the state
11 authority shall consider removing social security numbers from data bases that
12 contain information on, or documents that are mailed to, any individual to whom the
13 state authority provides, or may provide, services and shall consider substituting a
14 unique personal identifier for the individual's social security number.

15 **SECTION 2.** 66.0118 of the statutes is created to read:

16 **66.0118 Unique personal identifiers, social security numbers. (1)**

17 **DEFINITIONS.** In this section:

18 (a) “Political subdivision” means a city, village, town, or county.

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1 (b) “Unique personal identifier” means any combination of numbers, letters, or
2 characters, other than a social security number, that may be used to identify a
3 particular individual.

4 (2) DEVELOPMENT OF UNIQUE PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS. A political subdivision shall
5 investigate the feasibility of developing and using a unique personal identifier for
6 any individual who receives or may receive any type of service from the political
7 subdivision. Unless otherwise required by law to use a social security number, if a
8 political subdivision determines that a unique personal identifier may be
9 appropriately substituted for an individual’s social security number, the political
10 subdivision shall consider removing social security numbers from data bases that
11 contain information on, or documents that are mailed to, any individual to whom the
12 political subdivision provides, or may provide, services and shall consider
13 substituting a unique personal identifier for the individual’s social security number.

14 **SECTION 3.** 895.66 of the statutes is created to read:

15 **895.66 Unique personal identifiers, social security numbers. (1)** In this
16 section:

17 (a) “Business entity” has the meaning given in s. 13.62 (5).

18 (b) “Unique personal identifier” means any combination of numbers, letters, or
19 characters, other than a social security number, that may be used to identify a
20 particular individual.

21 (2) DEVELOPMENT OF UNIQUE PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS. Every business entity shall
22 investigate the feasibility of developing and using a unique personal identifier for
23 any individual who receives or may receive any type of service or product from the
24 business entity. Unless otherwise required by law to use a social security number,
25 if a business entity determines that a unique personal identifier may be

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SECTION 3

1 appropriately substituted for an individual's social security number, the business
2 entity shall consider using the unique personal identifier rather than the social
3 security number for all purposes relating to sending documents to an individual and
4 for identifying an individual.

5 (END)