



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2009 Wisconsin Act 347
[2009 Senate Bill 581]

Social Security Numbers

2009 Wisconsin Act 347 prohibits the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) from recording in its corporate registration information system any instrument that contains the Social Security number of an individual. If DFI is presented with an instrument for recording in that system that contains an individual's Social Security number, DFI may, prior to recording the instrument, move or obscure characters from the Social Security number such that the number is not discernable on the instrument.

If DFI is presented with an instrument for recording in the corporate registration information system that contains an individual's Social Security number, and if DFI records the instrument but does not discover that the instrument contains the number until after recording, DFI is not liable for the instrument drafter's placement of the number on the instrument and DFI may remove or obscure characters from the Social Security number such that the Social Security number is not discernable in the instrument. If DFI records an instrument in the system that contains the complete Social Security number of an individual, the instrument drafter is liable to the individual for any actual damages resulting from the instrument being recorded.

In addition to applying these provisions to the DFI corporate registration information system, Act 347 makes similar changes to ch. 409, Stats., which is the codification in Wisconsin statutes of Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC), relating to secured transactions and financing statements filed under that chapter.

Effective date: The Act takes effect on May 28, 2010.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.