AN ACT

Relating to confidentiality of Social Security numbers.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the Social Security Number Confidentiality Act.

Section 2. Definitions. The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Publicly post" or "publicly display." To intentionally communicate or otherwise make available to the general public.

Section 3. Privacy of Social Security numbers. (a) General rule.--No person or entity may do any of the following:

(1) Publicly post or publicly display in any manner an
individual's Social Security number.

(2) Print an individual's Social Security number on any card required for the individual to access products or services provided by the person or entity.

(3) Require an individual to transmit the individual's Social Security number over the Internet unless the connection is secure or the Social Security number is encrypted.

(4) Require an individual to use the individual's Social Security number to access an Internet website unless a password or unique personal identification number or other authentication device is also required to access the Internet website.

(5) Print an individual's Social Security number on any materials that are mailed to the individual unless Federal or State law requires the Social Security number to be on the document to be mailed. Notwithstanding this provision, applications and forms sent by mail may include Social Security numbers.

(b) Use prior to effective date.--A person or entity that has used, prior to the effective date of this section, an individual's Social Security number in a manner inconsistent with subsection (a) may continue using that individual's Social Security number in that manner on or after the effective date of this section, if all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The use of the Social Security number is continuous. If the use is stopped for any reason, subsection (a) shall apply.

(2) The individual is provided an annual disclosure by the person or entity informing the individual that the
individual has the right to stop the use of the individual's Social Security number in a manner prohibited by subsection (a).

(3) A written request by an individual to stop the use of the individual's Social Security number in a manner prohibited by subsection (a) shall be implemented within 30 days of the receipt of the request. There shall be no fee or charge for implementing the request.

(4) The person or entity does not deny services to an individual because the individual makes a written request pursuant to this subsection.

(c) Mailings.--A Social Security number that is permitted to be mailed under this section may not be printed, in whole or in part, on a postcard or other mailer not requiring an envelope, or visible on the envelope or without the envelope having been opened.

(d) Construction.--This section does not prevent the collection, use or release of a Social Security number as required by Federal or State law or the use of a Social Security number for internal verification or administrative purposes.

Section 4. Prohibition.

A person or entity may not encode or embed a Social Security number in or on a card or document, including, but not limited to, using a bar code, chip, magnetic strip or other technology, in place of removing the Social Security number, as required by this act.

Section 5. Applicability.

This act does not apply to documents that are required to be open to the public pursuant to any Federal or State law.

Section 6. Effective date.
This act shall take effect in 60 days.