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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
PRIVACY ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Ruggiero, McNamara, Shallcross Smith, Almeida, and Mattiello

Date Introduced: February 03, 2010

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 42 of the General Laws entitled "STATE AFFAIRS AND
2 GOVERNMENT" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 153

4 SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER PRIVACY ACT

5 **42-153-1. Refusal to disclose social security number -- Prohibition to deny rights. --**

6 (a) It shall be unlawful for any state or local government agency to deny to any individual
7 any right, benefit, or privilege provided by law because of such individual's refusal to disclose his
8 or her social security number.

9 (b) The prohibition contained in subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to:

10 (1) Any disclosure which is required by federal statute; or

11 (2) Any disclosure of a social security number to any federal, state, or local agency
12 maintaining a system of records in existence and operating before January 1, 1975, if such
13 disclosure was required under statute or regulation adopted prior to such date to verify the
14 identity of an individual.

15 **42-153-2. Notice of nature and uses of disclosure. --** Any state or local government
16 agency which requests an individual to disclose his or her social security number shall inform that
17 individual whether that disclosure is mandatory or voluntary, by what statutory or other authority
18 such number is solicited, and what uses will be made of it.

1 **42-153-3. Penalty.** -- In any civil action alleging a violation of this chapter, the court
2 may:
3 (1) Award damages and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs to a prevailing plaintiff; and
4 (2) Afford injunctive relief against any agency that commits or proposes to commit a
5 violation of this chapter.

6 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
PRIVACY ACT

- 1 This act would create the Social Security Number Privacy Act, and would provide
- 2 guidelines and penalties for violations thereof.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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