

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 37 (Delegates Kagan and Minnick)  
Commerce and Government Matters

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**Social Security Numbers on Identification Cards - Prohibitions**

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This bill prohibits the State, local governments, local school systems, and public institutions of higher education from printing an employee's Social Security number on any type of identification card. In addition, a local school system and a public institution of higher education may not print a student's Social Security number on any type of identification card. The bill also prohibits the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) from using, including, or encoding, in any form, an individual's Social Security number on the individual's driver's license.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2001.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Prohibiting an employee's or student's Social Security number on an identification card would not materially affect State expenditures.

**Local Effect:** Prohibiting an employee's or public school student's Social Security number on an identification card would not materially affect local expenditures.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The use of a State employee's or student's Social Security number on an identification card is not addressed in State law. Most State agencies do not print employee's Social Security numbers on identification cards, and the MVA does not print an individual's Social Security number on driver's licenses. However, Section 16-111.1 of the

Transportation Article allows the MVA, to the extent provided by federal law, to use a driver's Social Security number as an identifying number on each license it issues.

**Background:** In the 1999 *Joint Chairmen's Report*, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) was required to study the feasibility of removing Social Security numbers from all forms of identification issued by State agencies.

DBM has concluded that a majority of State agencies have discontinued using Social Security numbers on identification cards. The estimated cost for agencies that have not is about \$1 per employee.

The University of Maryland College Park and the University of Maryland Baltimore County currently issue identification cards to students, faculty, and staff by which individual identifiers are encoded in magnetic strips. This prevents the Social Security number from being visible on the cards. Other institutions within the University of Maryland system are currently phasing in this approach. Many community colleges do not issue identification cards with Social Security numbers. Those that do, however, are in the process of changing their identification cards. In addition, none of the 13 local school systems that issue employee identification cards uses an employee's Social Security number.

Maryland is one of the first states in the nation to discontinue using Social Security numbers on identification cards. Based on a 13-state survey (California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington) only one state (Pennsylvania) is currently studying the feasibility of eliminating Social Security numbers from identification cards. The other 12 states did not indicate any intention of changing their current practices.

As part of the Illegal Immigration Reform Act enacted in 1996, the U.S. Congress required that Social Security numbers become part of a driver's license. The federal law takes effect October 1, 2000, and requires states to include Social Security numbers that can be read visually or electronically on driver's licenses. The requirement does not apply to states that: (1) do not require the license to contain a Social Security number; and (2) require every applicant for a driver's license to submit the applicant's Social Security number and an agency of the state verifies that the account number is valid.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** This bill was introduced in the 1999 session as HB 881 and received

an unfavorable report from the House Commerce and Government Matters Committee.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Budget and Management, Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Association of Boards of Education, Maryland Higher Education Commission

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 20, 2000  
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