

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: 5/21/2002

Reference No.: CB-6-2002

Proposer: Estep

Draft No.: 2

Sponsors: Estep

Item Title: An Act regulating the collection, retention, use and dissemination of individual Social Security Account Numbers by the County Government

Drafter: Ralph E. Grutzmacher
Legislative Officer

Resource John Timms
Personnel: Legislative Aide

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date Presented: 2/19/2002

Executive Action: 6/12/2002 S

Committee Referral: 2/19/2002 PSFM

Effective Date: 12/1/2002

Committee Action: 4/16/2002 FAV(A)

Date Introduced: 4/23/2002

Public Hearing: 5/21/2002 10:15 A.M.

Council Action: 5/21/2002 ENACTED

Council Votes: PS:A, DB:-, TD:A, JE:A, TH:A, RVR:A, AS:A, MW:A

Pass/Fail: P

Remarks: _____

PUBLIC SAFETY & FISCAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT Date: 4/16/02

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 3-0, (In favor: Councilmembers Hendershot, Dernoga and Russell.)

This bill will amend the County Code by regulating the collection, retention, use and dissemination of individual Social Security account numbers provided to the County and contained in official County records and communication.

The collection of Social Security account numbers is restricted to those instances required by law and regulation of the Federal Government.

Any document requiring the Social Security number must be retained separately from any other related document.

The Office of Finance and the Office of Personnel and Labor Relations initially opposed this legislation because it limited the collection, disclosure or dissemination of Social Security account numbers to purposes only required by laws and regulations of the Federal Government. As a result of the concerns stated by these offices, the sponsors of CB-6-2002 agreed to amend the legislation. The Office of Finance and the Office of Personnel and Labor Relations endorsed the legislation as amended.

There may be some negative fiscal impact on the County related to the costs associated with changes in recordkeeping as a result of enacting CB-6-2002.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT

(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)

The prolific use of Social Security account numbers, as a form of universal identification for reasons unassociated with uses authorized by law or regulation, facilitates identity theft. Fraud associated with identity theft is difficult to combat and severely disrupts the economic and personal lives of the victims. The proposed legislation would reduce the use of Social Security account numbers on forms and documents used by County agencies that are unrelated to the uses specifically authorized by laws and regulations of the Federal Government. The legislation would not interfere with Social Security and income taxation reporting obligations, but would reduce the inappropriate and unnecessary collection, retention, and dissemination of Social Security account numbers and related personal confidential data.

CODE INDEX TOPICS: