

SUMMARY

Protection of Social Security Numbers Act; penalties. Provides that the social security number or any portion thereof, of any individual contained in a public record shall be confidential and exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. The bill does allow release of a social security number under certain limited circumstances, including proper judicial order; to federal, state or local law-enforcement or correctional personnel; by one agency to another agency in Virginia or to an agency in another state, district, or territory of the United States; and to any data subject exercising his rights under the Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act. The bill also allows an agency to verbally confirm the last four digits of a social security number contained in a public record solely to verify the identity of another individual to any person upon request. The bill provides that verbal confirmation is not required if disclosure of this information is otherwise prohibited by law. The bill allows an agency providing verbal confirmation to charge a reasonable fee for accessing and searching for the requested information and requires the agency to respond to a request within five working days. The bill allows an agency to require the requester to produce his name and legal address. The bill provides for penalties for violation.