S 141

Protecting the Privacy of Social Security Numbers Act

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)
Chamber: Senate
Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement
Introduced: Jan 6, 2009
Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S124-1
Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S124-128) (Jan 6, 2009)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/141

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]
Party: Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Gregg, Judd [R-NH]	R · NH		Jan 6, 2009
Sen. Snowe, Olympia J. [R-ME]	R · ME		Jan 6, 2009
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		May 12, 2009

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security Committee	House	Bills of Interest - Exchange of Letters	Sep 22, 2010
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 6, 2009

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 S 3789	Related bill	**Dec 18, 2010:** Became Public Law No: 111-318.
111 HR 122	Related bill	**Feb 9, 2009:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

Summary (as of Jan 6, 2009)

Protecting the Privacy of Social Security Numbers Act - Amends the federal criminal code to prohibit the display, sale, or purchase of Social Security numbers without the affirmatively expressed consent of the individual, except in specified circumstances. Directs the Attorney General to study and report to Congress on all the uses of Social Security numbers permitted, required, authorized, or excepted under any federal law, including the impact of such uses on privacy and data security.

Establishes a public records exception to the prohibition. Directs the Comptroller General to study and report to Congress on Social Security numbers in public records. Grants the Attorney General rulemaking authority to enforce this Act's prohibition and to implement and clarify the permitted uses occurring as a result of an interaction between businesses, governments, or business and government.

Amends title II (Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance) of the Social Security Act (SSA) to prohibit: (1) the use of Social Security numbers on checks issued for payment by governmental agencies; and (2) inmate access to Social Security account numbers.

Prohibits a commercial entity from requiring an individual to provide a Social Security number when purchasing a commercial good or service or denying an individual the good or service for refusing to provide that number, with exceptions. Establishes civil and criminal penalties.

Extends civil monetary penalties for misuse of a Social Security number.

Provides for: (1) criminal penalties under SSA title II for the misuse of a Social Security number; (2) civil actions and civil penalties against persons who violate this Act; and (3) federal injunctive authority with respect to any violation by a public entity.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 6, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 6, 2009:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S123-124)
- **Jan 6, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S124-128)

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