

S 2742

Improving Access to Social Security Services Act

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Social Welfare

Introduced: Jul 31, 2014

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Jul 31, 2014)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/2742>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NY • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Begich, Mark [D-AK]	D · AK		Jul 31, 2014
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Jul 31, 2014
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Sep 8, 2014
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Sep 15, 2014
Sen. Mikulski, Barbara A. [D-MD]	D · MD		Nov 12, 2014

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 31, 2014

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Social Welfare

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Improving Access to Social Security Services Act - Amends title VII (Administration) of the Social Security Act (SSA) to prohibit the Commissioner of Social Security from imposing any reduction in public access on a Social Security Administration field or hearing office without a public comment period meeting specified deadlines, including at least one public hearing.

Requires each field office to provide services necessary for: (1) Social Security number printout services until August 1, 2015, and (2) benefit verification letter services until October 1, 2015.

Directs the Commissioner to conduct an outreach campaign to notify Social Security beneficiaries and other interested parties of plans to phase out such services and their online availability.

Requires each office that ceases to offer, or reduces the availability of, such services to give notice to key local organizations whose members or patrons may be affected by such cessation or reduction.

Requires the Commissioner to establish a system providing live-chat assistance for online users of the Administration website.

Directs the Commissioner to establish: (1) a process whereby an eligible individual may apply for a reduction or waiver of Administration service fees, and (2) an automated notification system to alert Social Security beneficiaries of changes made to their information for direct deposit to a financial institution of their Social Security benefits.

Prohibits any person from displaying another individual's Social Security number to the general public without the individual's affirmatively expressed consent, or selling or purchasing that number without such consent.

Directs the Attorney General to study all uses of Social Security numbers permitted, required, authorized, or excepted under any federal law.

Prohibits any person from obtaining an individual's Social Security number for purposes of locating or identifying the individual with the intent to physically injure, harm, or use the identity of the individual for any illegal purpose.

Amends SSA title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) to prescribe criminal sanctions for the knowing and willful display, sale, or purchase of a Social Security number without meeting the prerequisites for consent.

Extends to any electronic communication the prohibitions, subject to criminal penalties, relating to references to Social Security or Medicare.

Authorizes a private cause of action in state court for injunctive relief or up to \$500 in actual damages by any individual aggrieved by a violation of this Act or any of its amendments.

Subjects any person the Attorney General determines has violated any provisions of this Act to a civil penalty of up to: (1) \$5,000 for each violation, and (2) \$50,000 if the violation has occurred with such frequency as to constitute a general business practice.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 31, 2014:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 31, 2014:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.