



## Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHFS 8/29/01

LRB Number	<b>01-0997/3</b>	Introduction Number	<b>AB-459</b>	Estimate Type	<b>Original</b>
<b>Subject</b>					
Compiled privacy bill					

### Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Two provisions of the bill would impact DHFS and its program partners.

1. Limiting access to social security account numbers to persons specifically authorized by federal or state law.

Many DHFS programs collect and store social security account numbers(SSN). Some programs use it as the primary identifier of participants. It is expected that extensive modifications to administrative processes and computer systems would be required across the department, including (but not limited to) the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) and the Medicaid eligibility system - CARES. DHFS cannot, at this time, determine the fiscal effect of these modifications.

2. Prohibiting health care providers or insurers from using social security account numbers in patient identifiers, unless required for program participation by a federal or state agency.

Currently under the Insurance Disclosure Program, insurance carriers use SSNs to identify their insured clients. Those SSNs are used to match insurance coverage with MA recipients. If SSNs are no longer used by the insurers, DHFS would be required to make system changes in the Insurance Disclosure Program in order to match insurance coverage with MA recipients. In addition, an inestimable number of local agencies may use the account number as the identifier in local information systems, in cases where the federal or state government does not require the use of social security numbers. It is not possible to determine the fiscal effect on local agencies of modifying their information systems to conform with this provision of the bill.

### Long-Range Fiscal Implications