

**CHAPTER 185**

AN ACT to renumber and amend 49.53, and to create 49.53 (2) of the statutes, relating to the confidentiality of public assistance records and providing a penalty.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. 49.53 of the statutes is renumbered 49.53 (1) and amended to read:  
49.53 LIMITATION ON GIVING INFORMATION. (1) The use or disclosure of information concerning applicants and recipients for any purpose not connected with the administration of aid to dependent children, aid to the blind, old-age assistance and aid to totally and permanently disabled persons, *except as provided under sub. (2)*, is prohibited. \* \* \* Any person violating this section \* \* \* shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$500 or by imprisonment not less than 10 days nor more than one year \* \* \* or \* \* \* both.

SECTION 2. 49.53 (2) of the statutes is created to read:  
49.53 (2) (a) Each county agency administering aid to the blind, aid to dependent children, old-age assistance or aid to totally and permanently disabled persons shall monthly maintain a report at its office showing the names and addresses of all persons receiving such aids together with the amount paid during the preceding month, provided that nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize or require the disclosure in such report of any information (names, addresses, amounts of aid or otherwise) pertaining to adoptions, to aid furnished to or in behalf of unmarried mothers pursuant to s. 49.19 (4) (d) and (g), or to aid furnished for the care of children in foster homes pursuant to s. 49.19 (10).  
(b) Such report shall be kept as a public record by the county agency and shall be open to public inspection at all times during regular office hours. Any person seeking permission to inspect such book shall sign a request stating reasons for inspecting the report, and the agency shall keep a record of such requests.  
(c) It is unlawful to use any information obtained through access to such report for political or commercial purposes. The violation of this provision is punishable upon conviction as provided in sub. (1).

Approved May 27, 1953.

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