



State of Wisconsin
1999 - 2000 LEGISLATURE

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**SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1,
TO 1999 SENATE BILL 46**

March 18, 1999 – Offered by COMMITTEE ON PRIVACY, ELECTRONIC COMMERCE AND
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

1 **AN ACT to create** 895.505 of the statutes; **relating to:** disposal of documents
2 containing personal information.

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

3 **SECTION 1.** 895.505 of the statutes is created to read:

4 **895.505 Disposal of records containing personal information. (1)**

5 DEFINITIONS. In this section:

6 (a) “Credit card” has the meaning given in s. 421.301 (15).

7 (b) “Financial institution” means any bank, savings bank, savings and loan
8 association or credit union that is authorized to do business under state or federal
9 laws relating to financial institutions, any issuer of a credit card or any investment
10 company.

11 (c) “Investment company” has the meaning given in s. 180.0103 (11e).

1 (d) “Medical business” means any organization or enterprise operated for profit
2 or not for profit, including a sole proprietorship, partnership, firm, business trust,
3 joint venture, syndicate, corporation, limited liability company or association, that
4 possesses information, other than personnel records, relating to a person’s physical
5 or mental health, medical history or medical treatment.

6 (e) “Personal information” means any of the following:

7 1. Personally identifiable data about an individual’s medical condition, if the
8 data is not generally considered to be public knowledge.

9 2. Personally identifiable data that contains an individual’s account or
10 customer number, account balance, balance owing, credit balance or credit limit, if
11 the data relates to an individual’s account or transaction with a financial institution.

12 3. Personally identifiable data provided by an individual to a financial
13 institution upon opening an account or applying for a loan or credit.

14 4. Personally identifiable data about an individual’s insurance, if the insurance
15 is related to a transaction with a financial institution.

16 5. Personally identifiable data about an individual’s federal, state or local tax
17 filings.

18 (f) “Personally identifiable” means capable of being associated with a particular
19 individual through one or more identifiers or other information or circumstances.

20 (g) “Record” means any material on which written, drawn, printed, spoken,
21 visual or electromagnetic information is recorded or preserved, regardless of
22 physical form or characteristics.

23 (h) “Tax preparation business” means any organization or enterprise operated
24 for profit, including a sole proprietorship, partnership, firm, business trust, joint
25 venture, syndicate, corporation, limited liability company or association, that

1 prepares a person's federal, state or local tax filings or counsels a person regarding
2 the person's federal, state or local tax filings.

3 **(2) DISPOSAL OF RECORDS CONTAINING PERSONAL INFORMATION.** A financial
4 institution, medical business or tax preparation business may not dispose of a record
5 containing personal information unless the financial institution, medical business,
6 tax preparation business or other person under contract with the financial
7 institution, medical business or tax preparation business does any of the following:

8 (a) Shreds the record before the disposal of the record.

9 (b) Erases the personal information contained in the record before the disposal
10 of the record.

11 (c) Modifies the record to make the personal information unreadable before the
12 disposal of the record.

13 (d) Takes actions that it reasonably believes will ensure that no unauthorized
14 person will have access to the personal information contained in the record for the
15 period between the record's disposal and the record's destruction.

16 **(3) CAUSE OF ACTION.** A financial institution, medical business or tax
17 preparation business is liable to a person whose personal information is improperly
18 disposed of in violation of sub. (2) for the amount of damages resulting from the
19 violation and for reasonable attorney fees.

20 **SECTION 2. Effective date.**

21 (1) This act takes effect on the first day of the 4th month beginning after
22 publication.

23 **(END)**