

Bill No. CS for SB 468

Amendment No. Barcode 205528

<u>Senate</u>	CHAMBER ACTION	<u>House</u>
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Senator Burt moved the following amendment:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)
Delete everything after the enacting clause

and insert:

Section 1. Subsection (8) is added to section 717.117, Florida Statutes, to read:

717.117 Report of unclaimed property.--
(8) Social security numbers and financial account numbers contained in reports required under this section, held by the Department of Banking and Finance, are confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. Notwithstanding this exemption, social security numbers shall be released, for the limited purpose of locating owners of abandoned or unclaimed property, to an attorney, Florida-certified public accountant, private investigator who is duly licensed in this state, or a private investigative agency licensed under chapter 493 and registered with the Department of Banking and Finance under chapter 717. This exemption applies to social security numbers and financial

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1 account numbers held by the Department of Banking and Finance
2 before, on, or after the effective date of this exemption.
3 This subsection is subject to the Open Government Sunset
4 Review Act of 1995 in accordance with s. 119.15, and shall
5 stand repealed October 2, 2007, unless reviewed and saved from
6 repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

7 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public
8 necessity that social security numbers and financial account
9 numbers of apparent owners of abandoned or unclaimed property
10 which are in the custody of the Department of Banking and
11 Finance be made confidential and exempt in order to prevent
12 identity theft and related crimes. The Legislature further
13 finds that this exemption is a public necessity in order to
14 prevent the use of such information in forged documents
15 demonstrating entitlement to abandoned or unclaimed property
16 and thereby defrauding the rightful property owner or the
17 State School Fund. Additionally, the social security number is
18 the only nationwide, unique numeric form of identification.
19 Release of a person's social security number is of concern due
20 to the amount of information such number can provide on an
21 individual. A social security number is often the link to an
22 individual's personal records, whether such records are
23 financial, educational, medical, or familial in nature. It is
24 necessary, however, to provide access to social security
25 numbers to an attorney, Florida-certified public accountant,
26 private investigator duly licensed in this state, or private
27 investigative agencies that are licensed under chapter 493,
28 Florida Statutes and registered with the Department of Banking
29 and Finance in order to facilitate the location and return of
30 unclaimed property to rightful owners. The Legislature further
31 finds that attorneys, Florida-certified public accountants,

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1 private investigators, and private investigative agencies are
2 subject to more stringent regulation and oversight than the
3 public as a whole. In addition, such professionals are the
4 only persons authorized to file claims on behalf of apparent
5 owners of abandoned or unclaimed property pursuant to chapter
6 717, Florida Statutes.

7 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
8 law.

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11 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====
12 And the title is amended as follows:

13 Delete everything before the enacting clause
14
15 and insert:

16 A bill to be entitled
17 An act relating to public records; amending s.
18 717.117, F.S.; creating an exemption from
19 public records requirements for social security
20 numbers and financial account numbers contained
21 in reports required under s. 717.117, F.S.,
22 held by the Department of Banking and Finance;
23 providing exceptions to the exemption;
24 providing retroactive application of the
25 exemption; providing for future review and
26 repeal; providing a statement of public
27 necessity; providing an effective date.

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