

By: Representative Mayo

To: Fees and Salaries of
Public Officers

HOUSE BILL NO. 251
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT WHEN A STATE AGENCY MAILS, DELIVERS OR
2 OTHERWISE DISSEMINATES INFORMATION OR MATERIAL THAT CONTAINS THE
3 SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OF AN INDIVIDUAL, THE AGENCY SHALL TAKE
4 SUCH STEPS AS MAY BE REASONABLY NECESSARY TO PREVENT THE
5 INADVERTENT DISCLOSURE OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
6 TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC OR TO PERSONS OTHER THAN THOSE PERSONS
7 HAVING A LEGITIMATE AND LAWFUL NEED TO KNOW THE INDIVIDUAL'S
8 SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES; TO
9 AMEND SECTION 35-3-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE
10 CHANCERY CLERKS TO SAFEGUARD THE RECORD OF DISCHARGED MEMBERS OF
11 THE ARMED FORCES AND TO VERIFY THE IDENTITY AND RELATIONSHIP TO
12 THE VETERAN OF PERSONS REQUESTING COPIES OF DISCHARGE RECORDS; AND
13 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

15 **SECTION 1.** When any state agency mails, delivers,
16 circulates, publishes, distributes, transmits, or otherwise
17 disseminates, in any form or manner, information or material that
18 contains the social security number of an individual, the agency
19 shall take such steps as may be reasonably necessary to prevent
20 the inadvertent disclosure of the individual's social security
21 number to members of the general public or to persons other than
22 those persons who, in the performance of their duties and
23 responsibilities, have a lawful and legitimate need to know the
24 individual's social security number. State agencies shall be in
25 compliance with this act on or before July 1, 2003.

26 **SECTION 2.** Section 35-3-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
27 amended as follows:

28 35-3-13. All chancery clerks, of all counties of the State
29 of Mississippi, shall record, without any cost whatsoever to any
30 person of the Armed Forces of the United States residing in the
31 same county as the chancery clerk, all honorable discharges and
32 all certificates of service of any and all members of the Armed



33 Forces of the United States of America who have served in the
34 Armed Forces of the United States, including the army, navy and
35 marine, coast guard and nurses corps.

36 The board of supervisors of all counties shall furnish to the
37 chancery clerk * * * all necessary supplies and equipment for the
38 recording of these instruments, and allow out of the general fund
39 of the county the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) for recording the
40 discharge certificate. All certified copies will be furnished
41 free without cost either to the soldier, sailor, marine, coast
42 guardsman, nurse or the county.

43 The chancery clerk of all counties shall keep a record of all
44 honorable discharges and certificates of discharge in a separate
45 record safeguarded and protected from theft, and definitely marked
46 "Record of Discharged Members of the Armed Forces." The chancery
47 clerk shall * * * furnish certified copies of the discharge or
48 discharge certificate of any veteran when so requested by the
49 veteran, his dependents or his authorized representative; however,
50 before furnishing any copy of the discharge or discharge
51 certificate, the chancery clerk must verify the identity and
52 relationship to the veteran of the person requesting the copy and
53 must obtain and maintain on file a signed consent for the release
54 of information from the veteran, dependent or authorized
55 representative.

56 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
57 and after July 1, 2002.

