

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1331

To require the Commissioner of Social Security to assemble a panel of experts to assist the Commissioner in developing appropriate mechanisms and safeguards to ensure confidentiality and integrity of personal Social Security records made accessible to the public.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 15, 1997

Mrs. KENNELLY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To require the Commissioner of Social Security to assemble a panel of experts to assist the Commissioner in developing appropriate mechanisms and safeguards to ensure confidentiality and integrity of personal Social Security records made accessible to the public.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Social Security Infor-  
5       mation Safeguards Act of 1997”.

1 **SEC. 2. SOCIAL SECURITY INFORMATION SAFEGUARDS**

2 **PANEL.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP.—Not later  
4 than June 1, 1997, the Commissioner of Social Security  
5 shall convene a Social Security Information Safeguards  
6 Panel (hereinafter referred to as the “Panel”). Members  
7 of the Panel shall include experts in the fields of computer  
8 security, information systems, privacy, law, and law en-  
9 forcement.

10 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Panel shall be to  
11 provide to the Commissioner, upon request, advice regard-  
12 ing appropriate mechanisms for ensuring, by means of the  
13 most advanced technology available, the security and con-  
14 fidentiality of personal social security records made acces-  
15 sible to the public by electronic means, including the  
16 Internet. The Commissioner shall request such advice in  
17 advance of any reinstitution of access to such information  
18 via the Internet.

19 **SEC. 3. SPECIFIC ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Specific matters to be addressed,  
21 in requesting advice pursuant to section 2 relating to safe-  
22 guards for electronic access to personal social security  
23 records, shall include—

24 (1) appropriate means of assuring confidential-  
25 ity, security, and authentication of transmission and  
26 storage of such records,

1           (2) appropriate techniques for authenticating  
2       the identity of individuals requesting such records,  
3       and

4           (3) appropriate procedures for detecting unau-  
5       thorized access to such records and appropriate pen-  
6       alties for unauthorized use and disclosure of such  
7       records.

8       (b) ADVICE REGARDING VERIFICATION BY INDIVID-  
9       UALS OF PERSONAL SOCIAL SECURITY INFORMATION.—  
10   In addition to advice otherwise to be requested pursuant  
11   to this Act, the Commissioner shall request of the Panel  
12   advice regarding the most appropriate means of assuring  
13   that individuals have the ability to verify the accuracy of  
14   personal social security information about themselves and  
15   to correct errors contained in such information.

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