CHAPTER 10.

[ H.B.1.]

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECORDS AND COMMUNICATIONS
—PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL.

AN ACT making information acquired in the administration of
public assistance privileged and confidential, and amend-
ing section 5, Chapter 128, Laws of 1941 (Rem. 1941 Supp.
10007-106(b)).

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of
Washington:

SECTION 1. Section 5, Chapter 128, Laws of 1941
(Rem. 1941 Supp. 10007-106(b)) is hereby amended
to read as follows:

Section 5. Information concerning individuals acquired by the State Department of Social Security or the County Welfare Departments in the adminis-
tration of the public assistance laws is hereby declared to be confidential, and communications be-
tween applicants for or recipients of public assistance and said departments are hereby declared to
be privileged. Information concerning individual applicants or recipients shall not be disclosed by
the State Department of Social Security or the County Welfare Departments or their representa-
tives, either directly or indirectly, voluntarily or as a result of compulsory process in any manner or
for any purpose not directly connected with the ad-
ministration of public assistance. Matters considered
confidential shall include, but shall not be limited
to, names and addresses, information obtained as a
result of applications, investigations, medical exami-
nations or correspondence. Such information may
be made available to other governmental depart-
ments and agencies to such extent as shall be neces-
sary to permit them to carry out functions concerned
with the administration of public assistance, and
may also be disclosed by the State Department of
Social Security or County Welfare Departments upon
the specific written request of the person concerned, and such information may be used in judicial proceedings directly connected with the administration of public assistance. This act shall not be construed as prohibiting the disclosure of statistical information not disclosing the identity of individuals.

The rule-making power of the Department of Social Security shall include the power to establish and enforce reasonable rules and regulations governing the custody, use and preservation of the records, papers, files and communications of the State Department of Social Security and the County Welfare Departments. The use of such records, papers, files and communications by any other agency or department of government to which they may be furnished shall be limited to the purposes for which they are furnished. It shall be unlawful except for purposes directly connected with the administration of general assistance, old-age assistance, aid to the blind and aid to dependent children and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the State Department of Social Security for any person or persons to solicit, disclose, receive, make use of, or to authorize, knowingly permit, participate in, or acquiesce in the use of, any list, or names of, or any information concerning, persons applying for or receiving such assistance, directly or indirectly derived from the records, papers, files or communications of the state or county or subdivisions or agencies thereof or acquired in the course of the performance of official duties.

Passed the House July 18, 1950.
Passed the Senate July 19, 1950.
Approved by the Governor July 24, 1950.