

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 amending 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:

Amendment.

Information declared confidential.

Communications declared privileged.

Information not to be disclosed.

Compulsory process.

Confidential matters defined.

When, how, and to whom information made available.

Section 5. Information concerning individuals acquired by the State Department of Social Security or the County Welfare Departments in the administration of the public assistance laws is hereby declared to be confidential, and communications between 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 representatives, either directly or indirectly, voluntarily or as a result of compulsory process in any manner or for any purpose not directly connected with the administration 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 examinations or correspondence. Such information may be made available to other governmental departments and agencies to such extent as shall be necessary 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.

Statistics not disclosing identity.

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.

Rule-making power of department.

Use of records, etc., limited.

Unlawful to divulge information from records.

Passed the House July 18, 1950.

Passed the Senate July 19, 1950.

Approved by the Governor July 24, 1950.