
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 955 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY YAW, COLLETT, MASTRIANO AND YUDICHAK,
NOVEMBER 15, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY, NOVEMBER 15, 2019

AN ACT

1 Requiring certain entities to provide notification of breach of
2 personal information; and providing for a cause of action.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Breach of
7 Personal Information Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Access device." A card issued by a financial institution
13 that contains a magnetic strip, microprocessor chip or other
14 means for storage of information. The term includes a credit
15 card, debit card or stored value card.

16 "Breach of the security of the system." The unauthorized
17 access and acquisition of computerized data that materially
18 compromises the security or confidentiality of personal

1 information maintained by an entity as part of a database of
2 personal information regarding multiple individuals and that
3 causes or the entity reasonably believes has caused or will
4 cause loss or injury to a resident of this Commonwealth. The
5 term does not include good faith acquisition of personal
6 information by an employee or agent of an entity for the
7 purposes of the entity if the personal information is not used
8 for a purpose other than the lawful purpose of the entity and is
9 not subject to further unauthorized disclosure.

10 "Business." A sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation,
11 association or other group, however organized and whether or not
12 organized to operate at a profit. The term includes a financial
13 institution organized, chartered or holding a license or
14 authorization certificate under the laws of this Commonwealth,
15 any other state, the United States or any other country or the
16 parent or the subsidiary of a financial institution. The term
17 also includes an entity that destroys records.

18 "Card security code." The three-digit or four-digit value
19 printed on an access device or contained in the microprocessor
20 chip or magnetic strip of an access device that is used to
21 validate access device information during the authorization
22 process.

23 "Encryption." The use of an algorithmic process to transform
24 data into a form in which there is a low probability of
25 assigning meaning without use of a confidential process or key.

26 "Entity." A State agency, a political subdivision of the
27 Commonwealth or an individual or a business doing business in
28 this Commonwealth.

29 "Financial institution." An office of a bank, bank and
30 trust, trust company with banking powers, savings bank,

1 industrial loan company, savings association, credit union or
2 regulated lender.

3 "Identity theft." The possession and use, through any means,
4 by a person of identifying information of an individual without
5 the consent of the individual to further an unlawful purpose.

6 "Magnetic strip data." Data contained in a magnetic strip of
7 an access device.

8 "Microprocessor chip data." Data contained in a
9 microprocessor chip of an access device.

10 "Notice." Any of the following methods of notification:

11 (1) Written notice to the last known home address of an
12 individual.

13 (2) Telephonic notice to a customer if:

14 (i) the customer can be reasonably expected to
15 receive the notice;

16 (ii) the notice is given in a clear and conspicuous
17 manner;

18 (iii) the notice describes the incident in general
19 terms;

20 (iv) the notice verifies personal information;

21 (v) the notice does not require the customer to
22 provide personal information; and

23 (vi) the customer is provided with a telephone
24 number to call or a publicly accessible Internet website
25 to visit for further information or assistance.

26 (3) E-mail notice to an individual, if a prior business
27 relationship exists and the person or entity has a valid e-
28 mail address for the individual.

29 (4) Substitute notice, if the entity demonstrates one of
30 the following:

- 1 (i) the cost of providing notice would exceed
2 \$100,000;
- 3 (ii) the affected class of subject individuals to be
4 notified exceeds 175,000; or
- 5 (iii) the entity does not have sufficient contact
6 information.

7 (5) All of the following apply:

8 (i) There is e-mail notice, when the entity has an
9 e-mail address for the subject individuals.

10 (ii) There is a conspicuous posting of the notice on
11 the entity's publicly accessible Internet website, if the
12 entity maintains one.

13 (iii) The notification is provided to major
14 Statewide media.

15 "Personal information." An individual's first name or first
16 initial and last name in combination with and linked to any one
17 or more of the following data elements when the data elements
18 are not encrypted or redacted:

19 (1) Social Security number.

20 (2) Driver's license number or a State identification
21 card number issued in lieu of a driver's license.

22 (3) Financial account number, credit card number or
23 debit card number, in combination with any required security
24 code, access code or password that would permit access to an
25 individual's financial account.

26 (4) Passport number.

27 (5) A username or e-mail address, in combination with a
28 password or security question and answer that would permit
29 access to an online account.

30 (6) Medical history, medical treatment by a health care

1 professional, diagnosis of mental or physical condition by a
2 health care professional or deoxyribonucleic acid profile.

3 (7) Health insurance policy number, subscriber
4 identification number or any other unique identifier used by
5 a health insurer to identify the individual.

6 (8) Unique biometric data generated from measurements or
7 analysis of human body characteristics for authentication
8 purposes.

9 (9) The individual's taxpayer identification number.
10 The term does not include publicly available information that is
11 lawfully made available to the general public from Federal,
12 State or local government records.

13 "PIN." A personal identification code that identifies the
14 cardholder.

15 "PIN verification code number." Data used to verify
16 cardholder identity when a PIN is used in a transaction.

17 "Records." Material, regardless of the physical form, on
18 which information is recorded or preserved by any means,
19 including in written or spoken words, graphically depicted,
20 printed or electromagnetically transmitted. The term does not
21 include publicly available directories containing information an
22 individual has voluntarily consented to have publicly
23 disseminated or listed, such as name, address or telephone
24 number.

25 "Redact." The term includes, but is not limited to,
26 alteration or truncation of data such that no more than the last
27 four digits of a Social Security number, driver's license
28 number, State identification card number or account number is
29 accessible as part of the data.

30 "Service provider." A person or entity that stores,

1 processes or transmits access device data on behalf of another
2 person or entity.

3 "State agency." An agency, board, commission, authority or
4 department of the Commonwealth and the General Assembly.

5 Section 3. Notification of breach.

6 (a) Duty to provide.--

7 (1) An entity that maintains, stores or manages
8 computerized data that includes personal information shall
9 provide notice of a breach of the security of the system
10 following discovery of the breach of the security of the
11 system to a resident of this Commonwealth whose unencrypted
12 and unredacted personal information was or is reasonably
13 believed to have been accessed and acquired by an
14 unauthorized person.

15 (2) Except as provided in section 4, or in order to take
16 any measures necessary to determine the scope of the breach
17 and to restore the reasonable integrity of the data system,
18 the notice shall be made without unreasonable delay.

19 (3) For the purpose of this subsection, a resident of
20 this Commonwealth may be determined to be an individual whose
21 principal mailing address as reflected in the computerized
22 data that is maintained, stored or managed by the entity is
23 in this Commonwealth.

24 (b) Encrypted information.--An entity shall provide notice
25 of the breach if:

26 (1) encrypted information is accessed and acquired in an
27 unencrypted form;

28 (2) the security breach is linked to a breach of the
29 security of the encryption; or

30 (3) the security breach is committed by a person with

1 access to or who otherwise learns of the encryption key.

2 (c) Vendor notification.--

3 (1) A vendor that maintains, stores or manages
4 computerized data on behalf of another entity shall provide
5 notice of a breach of the security of the system following
6 discovery by the vendor to the entity on whose behalf the
7 vendor maintains, stores or manages the data.

8 (2) The entity shall be responsible for making the
9 determinations and discharging any remaining duties under
10 this act.

11 Section 4. Exceptions.

12 The notification required by this act may be delayed for up
13 to three days if a law enforcement agency determines and advises
14 the entity in writing specifically referencing this section that
15 the notification will impede a criminal or civil investigation.

16 Section 5. Notification to consumer reporting agencies.

17 When an entity provides notification under this act to more
18 than 1,000 persons at one time, the entity shall also notify,
19 without unreasonable delay, all consumer reporting agencies that
20 compile and maintain files on consumers on a nationwide basis as
21 defined in section 603 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (Public
22 Law 91-508, 15 U.S.C. § 1681a), of the timing, distribution and
23 number of notices.

24 Section 6. Preemption.

25 This act relates to subject matter that is of Statewide
26 concern, and it is the intent of the General Assembly that this
27 act shall supersede and preempt all rules, regulations, codes,
28 statutes or ordinances of all cities, counties, municipalities
29 and other local agencies within this Commonwealth relating to
30 the provisions of this act.

1 Section 7. Notice exemption.

2 (a) Information privacy or security policy.--An entity that
3 maintains its own notification procedures as part of an
4 information privacy or security policy for the treatment of
5 personal information and is consistent with the notice
6 requirements of this act shall be deemed to be in compliance
7 with the notification requirements of this act if the entity
8 notifies subject individuals in accordance with the entity's
9 policies in the event of a breach of security of the system.

10 (b) Compliance with Federal requirements.--

11 (1) A financial institution that complies with the
12 notification requirements prescribed by the Federal
13 Interagency Guidance on Response Programs for Unauthorized
14 Access to Customer Information and Customer Notice is deemed
15 to be in compliance with this act.

16 (2) An entity that complies with the notification
17 requirements or procedures under the rules, regulations,
18 procedures or guidelines established by the entity's primary
19 or functional Federal regulator shall be in compliance with
20 this act.

21 Section 8. Civil relief.

22 (a) Remedies for residents.--A resident of this Commonwealth
23 who is adversely affected by a violation of this act, in
24 addition to and cumulative of all other rights and remedies
25 available at law, may bring an action to:

26 (1) Enjoin further violations of this act.

27 (2) Recover the greater of actual damages or \$5,000 for
28 each separate violation of this act.

29 (b) Attorney General.--The Attorney General may bring an
30 action against a person who violates this act to:

1 (1) Enjoin further violation of this act.

2 (2) Recover a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000 per
3 violation.

4 (c) Limitation period.--An action under this section must be
5 brought within three years after the violation is discovered or
6 by the exercise of reasonable diligence should have been
7 discovered, whichever is earlier.

8 (d) Repeated violations.--In an action under this section,
9 the court may increase a damage award to an amount equal to not
10 more than three times the amount otherwise available under this
11 section if the court determines that the defendant has engaged
12 in a pattern and practice of violating this section.

13 (e) Attorney fees and costs.--A prevailing plaintiff in an
14 action under this section shall be entitled to recover the
15 plaintiff's reasonable attorney fees and costs.

16 (f) Arbitration.--The rights of residents of this
17 Commonwealth and their access to the Commonwealth's courts are
18 in addition to and are not barred by any arbitration provision
19 in a contract between a resident of this Commonwealth and a
20 business.

21 (g) Violations.--For the purpose of this section, multiple
22 violations of this act resulting from a single action or act
23 shall constitute one violation.

24 Section 9. Information security.

25 (a) Security or identification information.--An entity that
26 maintains, stores or manages computerized data that includes
27 personal information shall take reasonable measures, consistent
28 with the nature and size of the entity, to secure the system and
29 unredacted personal information of residents of this
30 Commonwealth.

1 (b) Liability.--If there is a breach of security of the
2 system of a person or entity that has violated this section, or
3 the person's or entity's service provider, the person or entity
4 shall compensate the individual affected by the breach for
5 identity theft and fraudulent charges in the amount of \$5,000
6 for each separate violation of this act or the actual damages
7 incurred, whichever is greater.

8 Section 10. Access devices and breach of security.

9 (a) Security or identification information and retention
10 prohibited.--

11 (1) No person or entity conducting business in this
12 Commonwealth that accepts an access device in connection with
13 a transaction may retain the card's security code data, the
14 PIN verification code number or the full contents of any
15 tract magnetic strip data subsequent to the authorization of
16 the transaction or, in the case of a PIN debit transaction,
17 subsequent to 48 hours after authorization of the
18 transaction.

19 (2) A person or entity is in violation of this section
20 if the entity's service provider retains the data subsequent
21 to the authorization of the transaction or, in the case of a
22 PIN debit transaction, subsequent to 48 hours after
23 authorization of the transaction.

24 (b) Liability.--If there is a breach of the security of the
25 system of a person or entity that has violated this act, or of
26 the person's or entity's service provider, the person or entity
27 shall reimburse the financial institution that issued any access
28 devices affected by the breach for the costs of reasonable
29 actions undertaken by the financial institution as a result of
30 the breach in order to protect the information of the entity's

1 cardholders or to continue to provide services to cardholders,
2 including any cost incurred in connection with:

3 (1) The cancellation or reissuance of any access device
4 affected by the breach.

5 (2) The closure of a deposit, transaction, share draft
6 or other account affected by the breach and any action to
7 stop a payment or block a transaction with respect to the
8 account.

9 (3) The opening or reopening of a deposit, transaction,
10 share draft or other account affected by the breach.

11 (4) A refund or credit made to a cardholder to cover the
12 cost of an unauthorized transaction relating to the breach.

13 (5) The notification of cardholders affected by the
14 breach.

15 (c) Recovery of costs.--

16 (1) The financial institution may recover costs for
17 damages paid by the financial institution to cardholders
18 injured by a breach of the security of the system of a person
19 or entity that has violated this act.

20 (2) Costs do not include an amount recovered from a
21 credit card company by a financial institution.

22 (3) The remedies under this subsection are cumulative
23 and do not restrict any other right or remedy otherwise
24 available to the financial institution.

25 Section 11. Applicability.

26 This act shall apply to the discovery or notification of a
27 breach in the security of personal information data that occurs
28 on or after the effective date of this section.

29 Section 12. Effective date.

30 This act shall take effect in 60 days.