

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 617

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON

PRIVACY/COMPUTERS: Provides relative to the protection of personally identifiable information

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 44:42 and Chapter 8-N of Title 45 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,  
3 to be comprised of R.S. 45:844.91, relative to the protection of personally  
4 identifiable information; to provide for personal information contained in public  
5 records; to provide for definitions; to provide for a request mechanism; to provide  
6 for prohibitions; to provide for response periods; to provide for extensions; to  
7 provide for notification; to provide for exceptions; to provide for remedies; to  
8 provide for rule promulgation; to provide for enforcement; to provide for penalties;  
9 and to provide for related matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 44:42 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §42. Prohibited use of personally identifiable information included in public  
13 records; consent

14 A. No person shall use any public record that includes the personally  
15 identifiable information of a resident of this state, including the name, address, birth  
16 date, or any portion thereof, to market or solicit the sale of products or services to the  
17 resident without his consent.

18 B. Marketing and soliciting is prohibited, unless the person has affirmatively  
19 consented by electronic or paper notification to share the personally identifiable

1 information with a third party before the personally identifiable information is used  
2 for these purposes.

3 Section 2. R.S. Chapter 8-N of Title 45 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,  
4 comprised of R.S. 45:844.91, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

5 CHAPTER 8-N. PROTECTION OF CONSUMER INFORMATION

6 §844.91. Notice regarding privacy of information collected on the internet from  
7 consumers

8 A. As used in this Section:

9 (1) "Consumer" means a person who seeks or acquires, by purchase or lease,  
10 any good, service, money, or credit for personal, family, or household purposes from  
11 the website or online service of an operator.

12 (2) "Covered information" means any of the following items of personally  
13 identifiable information about a consumer that is collected by an operator, through  
14 a website or online service, and maintained by the operator in an accessible format:

15 (a) A first or last name.

16 (b) A home or other physical address which includes the name of a street and  
17 the name of a city or town.

18 (c) An electronic mail address.

19 (d) A telephone number.

20 (e) A social security number.

21 (f) An identifier that allows a consumer to be contacted either physically or  
22 online.

23 (g) Any other information concerning a consumer that is collected from the  
24 consumer through the website or online service of the operator and maintained by  
25 the operator in combination with an identifier in a form that makes the information  
26 personally identifiable.

27 (3) "Designated request address" means an electronic mail address, a toll-  
28 free telephone number, or a website established by an operator through which a  
29 consumer may submit a verified request to an operator.

1           (4)(a) "Operator" means a person who does all of the following:

2           (i) Owns or operates a website or online service for commercial purposes.

3           (ii) Collects and maintains covered information from consumers who reside  
4 in this state and use or visit the website or online service.

5           (iii) Purposefully directs activities toward this state or purposefully executes  
6 a transaction or engages in any activity with this state or a resident of this state.

7           (b) The term does not include:

8           (i) A third party that operates, hosts, or manages a website or online service  
9 on behalf of its operator or processes information on behalf of its operator.

10          (ii) A financial institution, or its affiliate, that is subject to the Gramm-  
11 Leach-Bliley Act, 15 U.S.C. 6801 et seq., and regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

12          (iii) An entity that is subject to the Health Insurance Portability and  
13 Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-191, and regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

14          (iv) A manufacturer of a motor vehicle or a person who repairs or services  
15 a motor vehicle who collects, generates, records, or stores covered information that  
16 is retrieved from a motor vehicle in connection with a technology or service related  
17 to the motor vehicle or that is provided by a consumer in connection with a  
18 subscription or registration for a technology or service related to the motor vehicle.

19          (5)(a) "Sale" means the exchange of covered information for monetary  
20 consideration by the operator to a person for the person to license or sell the covered  
21 information to additional persons.

22          (b) The term does not include:

23          (i) The disclosure of covered information by an operator to a person who  
24 processes the covered information on behalf of the operator.

25          (ii) The disclosure of covered information by an operator to a person with  
26 whom the consumer has a direct relationship for the purposes of providing a product  
27 or service requested by the consumer.

28          (iii) The disclosure of covered information by an operator to a person for  
29 purposes that are consistent with the reasonable expectations of a consumer

1 considering the context in which the consumer provided the covered information to  
2 the operator.

3 (iv) The disclosure of covered information to a person who is an affiliate of  
4 the operator.

5 (v) The disclosure or transfer of covered information to a person as an asset  
6 that is part of a merger, acquisition, bankruptcy, or other transaction in which the  
7 person assumes control of all or part of the assets of the operator.

8 (6) "Verified request" means a request submitted by a consumer to an  
9 operator for the purposes provided for in Subsection B of this Section, for which an  
10 operator can reasonably verify the authenticity of the request.

11 B.(1) Each operator shall establish a designated request address through  
12 which a consumer may submit a verified request.

13 (2) A consumer may, at any time, submit a verified request through a  
14 designated request address to an operator directing the operator not to make any sale  
15 of any covered information the operator has collected or will collect about the  
16 consumer.

17 (3) An operator who has received a verified request submitted by a consumer  
18 may not make any sale of any covered information the operator has collected or will  
19 collect about the consumer.

20 (4) An operator shall respond to a verified request submitted by a consumer  
21 within sixty days after the date the request is submitted. An operator may extend the  
22 period by up to thirty days if the operator determines that an extension is reasonably  
23 necessary. An operator who extends the period shall notify the consumer of the  
24 extension.

25 C. An operator shall make available, in a manner reasonably accessible to  
26 consumers whose covered information the operator collects through its website or  
27 online service, a notice that:

28 (1) Identifies the categories of covered information that the operator collects  
29 through its website or online service about consumers who use or visit the website

1 or online service and the categories of third parties with whom the operator may  
2 share the covered information.

3 (2) Provides a description of the process, if applicable, for a consumer who  
4 uses or visits the website or online service to review and request changes to any of  
5 his covered information that is collected through the website or online service.

6 (3) Describes the process by which the operator notifies consumers who use  
7 or visit the website or online service of material changes to the notice.

8 (4) Discloses whether a third party may collect covered information about  
9 a consumer's online activities over time and across different websites or online  
10 services when the consumer uses the operator's website or online service.

11 (5) States the effective date of the notice.

12 D. This Section does not apply to an operator who meets all of the following  
13 criteria:

14 (1) The operator is located in this state.

15 (2) The operator's revenue is derived primarily from a source other than the  
16 sale or lease of goods, services, or credit on websites or online services.

17 (3) The operator's website or online service has fewer than twenty-thousand  
18 unique visitors per year.

19 E.(1) An operator may remedy any failure to comply with this Section within  
20 thirty days after being informed of the failure.

21 (2) An operator violates this Section if the operator:

22 (a) Knowingly and willfully fails to remedy a failure to comply within thirty  
23 days after being informed of the failure.

24 (b) Makes available a notice which constitutes a knowing and material  
25 misrepresentation or omission that is likely to mislead a consumer acting reasonably  
26 under the circumstances to the detriment of the consumer.

27 F.(1) The office of consumer protection, within the Department of Justice,  
28 shall adopt rules to enforce this Section. If there is reason to believe that an operator,

1        directly or indirectly, has violated or is violating this Section, the office of consumer  
2        protection may institute an appropriate legal proceeding against the operator.  
3                (2) The district court, upon a showing that the operator, directly or indirectly,  
4        has violated or is violating this Section, may:  
5                (a) Issue a temporary or permanent injunction,  
6                (b) Impose a civil penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars for each  
7        violation.  
8                G. This Section does not establish a private right of action against an  
9        operator. This Section is not exclusive and is in addition to any other remedies  
10       provided by law.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 617 Original

2020 Regular Session

Thompson

**Abstract:** Requires certain operators of websites to establish and maintain a mechanism by which a consumer may direct the operator not to sell any personally identifiable information the operator has collected about the consumer through the website; the operator, after receiving the request, cannot sell the consumer's information and must notify the consumer.

Proposed law prohibits a person from using any public record, that contains personally identifiable information of a resident of the state, to market or solicit the sale of products or services to the resident without his consent.

Proposed law requires affirmative consent to be given by the resident, by electronic or paper notification, to share the information with a third party before the information is used.

Proposed law defines "consumer", "covered information", "designated request address", "operator", "sale", and "verified request".

Proposed law requires each operator to establish a designated request address through which a consumer may submit a verified request.

Proposed law allows a consumer to submit a verified request directing the operator not to make any sale of any covered information about the consumer.

Proposed law prohibits an operator, who has received a verified request submitted by a consumer, from making any sale of any covered information the operator has collected or will collect about the consumer.

Proposed law requires an operator to respond to a verified request submitted by a consumer within 60 days of the request being submitted.

Proposed law allows an operator to extend the 60 day period provided for in proposed law by up to 30 days, if the operator determines that an extension is reasonably necessary.

Proposed law requires an operator who utilizes the extension provided for in proposed law to notify the consumer of the extension.

Proposed law requires an operator to make available to consumers, whose covered information is collected through the operator's website, a notice providing the following:

- (1) Identification of the categories of covered information that the operator collects through its website or online service about consumers who visit or use the website or online service, and the categories of third parties who the operator may share the information with.
- (2) A description of the process, if applicable, for a consumer who visits the website or online service to review and request changes to any of his or her covered information that is collected through the website or online service.
- (3) A description of the process by which the operator notifies consumers who use or visit the website or online service of material changes to the notice.
- (4) A disclosure of whether or not a third party may collect covered information about a consumer's online activities over time and across different websites or online services when the consumer uses the operator's website or online services.
- (5) The effective date of the notice.

Proposed law does not apply to an operator who meets all of the following criteria:

- (1) The operator is located in this state.
- (2) The operator's revenue is derived primarily from a source other than the sale or lease of goods, services, or credit on websites or online services.
- (3) The operator's website or online service has fewer than 20,000 unique visitors per year.

Proposed law allows an operator to remedy any failure to comply with proposed law within 30 days after being informed of the failure.

An operator violates proposed law if the operator does any of the following:

- (1) Knowingly and willfully fails to remedy a failure to comply within 30 days after being informed of the failure.
- (2) Makes available a notice, which constitutes a knowing and material misrepresentation or omission, that is likely to mislead a consumer, acting reasonably under the circumstances, to the detriment of the consumer.

Proposed law requires office of consumer protection, within the Department of Justice, to adopt rules to enforce proposed law.

Proposed law allows the office of consumer protection, to institute an appropriate legal proceeding, if it is reasonably believed that an operator has, directly or indirectly, violated proposed law.

Proposed law allows the district court, upon a showing that an operator has directly or indirectly violated this proposed law to do either of the following:

- (1) Issue a temporary or permanent injunction.
- (2) Impose a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000 for each violation.

Proposed law does not establish a private right of action against an operator.

Proposed law is not exclusive and is in addition to any other remedies in present law.

(Adds R.S. 44:42 and R.S. 45:844.91)