I3 HB 901/19 – ECM

By: **Delegates Carey and C. Watson** Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2020 Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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Maryland Online Consumer Protection Act

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain businesses that collect a consumer's personal 4 information to provide certain notices to the consumer at or before the point of $\mathbf{5}$ collection; authorizing a consumer to submit a certain request for information to a 6 business that collects the consumer's personal information; requiring a business to 7 comply with a certain request for information in a certain manner and within a 8 certain period of time; establishing certain exceptions to a consumer's request for 9 personal information; requiring a business to establish a means for consumers to 10 submit certain requests; requiring a business to provide certain information to a 11 consumer in a certain manner; prohibiting a business from retaining certain 12personal information, re-identifying or linking certain data, or disclosing certain 13 personal information under certain circumstances; requiring a business to include 14certain information in a certain policy or website and update certain information 15periodically; requiring a business to ensure that an individual responsible for 16handling certain consumer inquiries is informed of certain requirements relating to 17consumer personal information privacy and how to direct consumers to exercise their 18 rights; authorizing a consumer to request a business to delete certain personal 19information and requiring a business to comply with the request in a certain manner; 20authorizing a consumer to demand that a business not disclose the consumer's 21 personal information to third parties and requiring a business to comply with the 22consumer's request to opt out in a certain manner; authorizing a business to require 23an authentication of a certain request; prohibiting a business from taking certain 24actions against a consumer who exercises the consumer's rights to consumer 25personal information privacy; providing for certain exceptions to an otherwise 26authorized disclosure of consumer personal information; establishing that a violation 27of this Act is an unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practice and is subject to certain 28enforcement and penalty provisions; authorizing the Office of the Attorney General 29to adopt certain regulations; providing for the application of this Act; providing for a 30 delayed effective date; defining certain terms; and generally relating to privacy of 31consumer personal information.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

1	BY adding to
2	Article – Commercial Law
3	Section 14–4201 through 14–4214 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 42.
4	Consumer Personal Information Privacy"
5	Annotated Code of Maryland
6	(2013 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)
7	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
8	That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
9	Article – Commercial Law
10	SUBTITLE 42. CONSUMER PERSONAL INFORMATION PRIVACY.
11	14-4201.
12	(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
13	INDICATED.
14	(B) (1) "AGGREGATE CONSUMER INFORMATION" MEANS INFORMATION
15	THAT RELATES TO A GROUP OR CATEGORY OF CONSUMERS, FROM WHICH
16	INDIVIDUAL CONSUMER IDENTITIES HAVE BEEN REMOVED, THAT IS NOT LINKED OR
17	REASONABLY LINKABLE TO ANY CONSUMER, INCLUDING THROUGH A DEVICE.
18	(2) "AGGREGATE CONSUMER INFORMATION" DOES NOT INCLUDE AN
19	INDIVIDUAL CONSUMER RECORD THAT HAS BEEN DE-IDENTIFIED.
20	(C) (1) "BIOMETRIC INFORMATION" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL'S
21	PHYSIOLOGICAL, BIOLOGICAL, OR BEHAVIORAL CHARACTERISTICS, INCLUDING AN
22	INDIVIDUAL'S DNA, THAT CAN BE USED, ALONE OR IN COMBINATION WITH EACH
23	OTHER OR WITH OTHER IDENTIFYING DATA, TO ESTABLISH INDIVIDUAL IDENTITY.
24	(2) "BIOMETRIC INFORMATION" INCLUDES:
25	(I) IMAGERY OF THE IRIS, RETINA, FINGERPRINT, FACE, HAND,
26	PALM, AND VEIN PATTERNS, AND VOICE RECORDINGS FROM WHICH AN IDENTIFIER
27	TEMPLATE, SUCH AS A FACE PRINT, A MINUTIAE TEMPLATE, OR A VOICEPRINT, CAN
$\frac{1}{28}$	BE EXTRACTED; AND
<u>90</u>	
29 20	(II) KEYSTROKE PATTERNS OR RHYTHMS, GAIT PATTERNS OR
30	RHYTHMS, AND SLEEP, HEALTH, OR EXERCISE DATA THAT CONTAIN IDENTIFYING
31	INFORMATION.

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1	(D) "BUSINESS" MEANS:
$2 \\ 3$	(1) A SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP, A PARTNERSHIP, A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, A CORPORATION, AN ASSOCIATION, OR ANY OTHER LEGAL ENTITY THAT:
45	(I) IS ORGANIZED OR OPERATED FOR THE PROFIT OR FINANCIAL BENEFIT OF ITS OWNERS;
$6 \\ 7$	(II) COLLECTS THE PERSONAL INFORMATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL OR CONSUMER; AND
8	(III) SATISFIES ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING THRESHOLDS:
9 10	1. HAS ANNUAL GROSS REVENUES IN EXCESS OF \$25,000,000;
$11 \\ 12 \\ 13 \\ 14$	2. ANNUALLY BUYS, RECEIVES FOR THE BUSINESS'S COMMERCIAL PURPOSES, SELLS, OR SHARES FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES, ALONE OR IN COMBINATION, THE PERSONAL INFORMATION OF 100,000 OR MORE CONSUMERS, HOUSEHOLDS, OR DEVICES; OR
$\begin{array}{c} 15\\ 16 \end{array}$	3. DERIVES AT LEAST ONE-HALF OF ITS ANNUAL REVENUES FROM SELLING CONSUMERS' PERSONAL INFORMATION; OR
17	(2) ANY ENTITY THAT:
18 19	(I) CONTROLS OR IS CONTROLLED BY A BUSINESS UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND
$20\\21$	(II) SHARES A NAME, SERVICE MARK, OR TRADEMARK WITH THE BUSINESS.
$22 \\ 23 \\ 24 \\ 25$	(E) "BUSINESS PURPOSE" MEANS THE USE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION BY A BUSINESS OR A SERVICE PROVIDER IN A MANNER REASONABLY NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THE OPERATIONAL PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE INFORMATION WAS COLLECTED.
26 27	(F) (1) "Collect" means to buy, rent, gather, obtain, receive, or access any personal information pertaining to a consumer by any means.
2829	(2) "COLLECT" INCLUDES TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM THE CONSUMER OR BY OBSERVING THE CONSUMER'S BEHAVIOR.

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(G) "CONSUMER" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO RESIDES IN THE STATE.

 $\mathbf{2}$ (H) "DE-IDENTIFIED" MEANS, WITH RESPECT ТО INFORMATION, 3 PROCESSED SO THAT THE INFORMATION CANNOT REASONABLY IDENTIFY, RELATE TO, DESCRIBE, BE CAPABLE OF BEING ASSOCIATED WITH, OR BE LINKED TO A 4 PARTICULAR $\mathbf{5}$ CONSUMER, IF Α **BUSINESS** THAT USES **DE-IDENTIFIED INFORMATION:** 6

7 (1) HAS IMPLEMENTED TECHNICAL SAFEGUARDS THAT PROHIBIT 8 RE-IDENTIFICATION OF THE CONSUMER TO WHOM THE INFORMATION MAY 9 PERTAIN;

10 (2) HAS IMPLEMENTED BUSINESS PROCESSES THAT SPECIFICALLY 11 PROHIBIT RE–IDENTIFICATION OF THE INFORMATION;

- 12(3) HAS IMPLEMENTED BUSINESS PROCESSES TO PREVENT13INADVERTENT RELEASE OF DE-IDENTIFIED INFORMATION; AND
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- (4) MAKES NO ATTEMPT TO RE–IDENTIFY THE INFORMATION.

15 (I) (1) "DESIGNATED METHOD FOR SUBMITTING REQUESTS" MEANS A 16 MAILING ADDRESS, AN E-MAIL ADDRESS, AN INTERNET WEBSITE, AN INTERNET 17 PORTAL, A TELEPHONE NUMBER, OR ANY OTHER APPLICABLE CONTACT 18 INFORMATION THROUGH WHICH A CONSUMER MAY SUBMIT A REQUEST OR 19 DIRECTION UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

20 (2) "DESIGNATED METHOD FOR SUBMITTING REQUESTS" INCLUDES 21 A CONSUMER-FRIENDLY MEANS OF CONTACTING A BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE 22 ATTORNEY GENERAL UNDER § 14–4211(A)(4) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

23 (J) "DEVICE" MEANS A PHYSICAL OBJECT THAT IS CAPABLE OF 24 CONNECTING TO THE INTERNET OR TO ANOTHER DEVICE.

- 25 (K) "HOMEPAGE" MEANS:
- 26(1) THE INTRODUCTORY PAGE OF AN INTERNET WEBSITE AND ANY27INTERNET WEBPAGE WHERE PERSONAL INFORMATION IS COLLECTED; OR
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- (2) IN THE CASE OF AN ONLINE SERVICE OR APPLICATION:

29 (I) THE SERVICE OR APPLICATION PLATFORM PAGE OR 30 DOWNLOAD PAGE; 1 (II) A LINK WITHIN THE SERVICE OR APPLICATION, SUCH AS 2 FROM THE SERVICE OR APPLICATION CONFIGURATION, "ABOUT", "INFORMATION", 3 OR SETTINGS PAGE; OR

4 (III) ANY OTHER LOCATION THAT ALLOWS A CONSUMER TO 5 REVIEW THE NOTICE REQUIRED BY § 14–4202(A) OF THIS SUBTITLE, WHETHER 6 BEFORE OR AFTER DOWNLOADING THE APPLICATION OR SERVICE.

(L) "INFER" MEANS TO DERIVE INFORMATION, DATA, ASSUMPTIONS, OR
CONCLUSIONS FROM FACTS, EVIDENCE, OR ANOTHER SOURCE OF INFORMATION OR
DATA.

10 (M) (1) "PERSONAL INFORMATION" MEANS INFORMATION THAT 11 IDENTIFIES, RELATES TO, DESCRIBES, IS REASONABLY CAPABLE OF BEING 12 ASSOCIATED WITH, OR COULD REASONABLY BE LINKED, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, 13 WITH A PARTICULAR CONSUMER OR THE CONSUMER'S DEVICE.

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(2) "PERSONAL INFORMATION" DOES NOT INCLUDE:

15(I) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION THAT IS LAWFULLY16MADE AVAILABLE FROM FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS;

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(II) **DE-IDENTIFIED CONSUMER INFORMATION; OR**

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(III) AGGREGATE CONSUMER INFORMATION.

19 (N) "PROBABILISTIC IDENTIFIER" MEANS THE IDENTIFICATION OF A 20 CONSUMER OR A DEVICE TO A DEGREE OF CERTAINTY OF MORE PROBABLE THAN 21 NOT BASED ON CATEGORIES OF PERSONAL INFORMATION INCLUDED IN, OR SIMILAR 22 TO, THE CATEGORIES LISTED UNDER SUBSECTION (M) OF THIS SECTION.

(0) "PROCESSING" MEANS AN OPERATION OR A SET OF OPERATIONS THAT
IS PERFORMED ON PERSONAL DATA OR ON SETS OF PERSONAL DATA, WHETHER OR
NOT BY AUTOMATED MEANS.

26"PSEUDONYMIZE" **(P)** MEANS THE PROCESSING OF PERSONAL INFORMATION IN A MANNER THAT RENDERS THE PERSONAL INFORMATION NO 2728LONGER ATTRIBUTABLE TO A SPECIFIC CONSUMER WITHOUT THE USE OF 29ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, IF THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS KEPT SEPARATELY AND IS SUBJECT TO TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SAFEGUARDS 30 31TO ENSURE THAT THE PERSONAL INFORMATION IS NOT ATTRIBUTED TO AN 32 **IDENTIFIED OR IDENTIFIABLE CONSUMER.**

1 (Q) "RESEARCH" MEANS SCIENTIFIC, SYSTEMATIC STUDY AND 2 OBSERVATION, INCLUDING BASIC RESEARCH OR APPLIED RESEARCH THAT IS IN THE 3 PUBLIC INTEREST AND THAT ADHERES TO APPLICABLE ETHICS AND PRIVACY LAWS 4 OR STUDIES CONDUCTED IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE AREA OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

5 (R) "SERVICE" MEANS WORK, LABOR, AND SERVICES, INCLUDING SERVICES 6 FURNISHED IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALE OR REPAIR OF GOODS.

7 **(**S**)** "SERVICE PROVIDER" MEANS A PERSON THAT PROCESSES 8 INFORMATION ON BEHALF OF A BUSINESS AND TO WHICH THE BUSINESS DISCLOSES A CONSUMER'S PERSONAL INFORMATION FOR A BUSINESS PURPOSE IN 9 10 ACCORDANCE WITH A WRITTEN CONTRACT IF THE CONTRACT PROHIBITS THE 11 ENTITY RECEIVING THE INFORMATION FROM RETAINING, USING, OR DISCLOSING THE PERSONAL INFORMATION FOR ANY PURPOSE OTHER THAN FOR THE SPECIFIC 1213PURPOSE OF PERFORMING THE SERVICES SPECIFIED IN THE CONTRACT FOR THE 14BUSINESS, OR AS OTHERWISE ALLOWED BY THIS SUBTITLE.

15 **(T) "THIRD PARTY" MEANS A PERSON THAT IS NOT THE BUSINESS THAT** 16 COLLECTS PERSONAL INFORMATION FROM CONSUMERS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE OR 17 A SERVICE PROVIDER OF THAT BUSINESS.

18 (U) (1) "THIRD-PARTY DISCLOSURE" MEANS A TRANSFER OF A 19 CONSUMER'S PERSONAL INFORMATION BY THE BUSINESS TO A THIRD PARTY, 20 INCLUDING SELLING, RENTING, RELEASING, DISSEMINATING, MAKING AVAILABLE, 21 TRANSFERRING, OR OTHERWISE COMMUNICATING ORALLY, IN WRITING, OR BY 22 ELECTRONIC OR OTHER MEANS.

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(2) "THIRD–PARTY DISCLOSURE" DOES NOT INCLUDE:

(I) A DISCLOSURE BY A BUSINESS OF PERSONAL INFORMATION
 OF A CONSUMER TO A SERVICE PROVIDER THAT IS NECESSARY TO THE
 PERFORMANCE OF A BUSINESS PURPOSE INCLUDED IN A NOTICE UNDER § 14–4202
 OF THIS SUBTITLE;

(II) IDENTIFICATION BY A BUSINESS OF A CONSUMER WHO HAS
 OPTED OUT OF THE SALE OF THE CONSUMER'S PERSONAL INFORMATION FOR THE
 PURPOSE OF ALERTING THIRD PARTIES THAT THE CONSUMER HAS OPTED OUT OF
 THE SALE OF THE CONSUMER'S PERSONAL INFORMATION; OR

(III) THE TRANSFER BY A BUSINESS TO A THIRD PARTY OF THE
 PERSONAL INFORMATION OF A CONSUMER AS AN ASSET THAT IS PART OF A MERGER,
 AN ACQUISITION, A BANKRUPTCY, OR ANY OTHER TRANSACTION IN WHICH THE
 THIRD PARTY ASSUMES CONTROL OF ALL OR PART OF THE BUSINESS IF THAT

1 INFORMATION IS USED OR SHARED CONSISTENTLY WITH THE NOTICE RECEIVED BY 2 CONSUMERS UNDER § 14–4202 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

3 (V) "UNIQUE IDENTIFIER" MEANS A PERSISTENT IDENTIFIER THAT CAN BE
4 USED TO RECOGNIZE A CONSUMER OR A DEVICE THAT IS LINKED TO A CONSUMER
5 OR HOUSEHOLD, OVER TIME AND ACROSS DIFFERENT TECHNOLOGIES, INCLUDING:

- 6
- (1) A DEVICE IDENTIFIER;
- 7 (2) AN INTERNET PROTOCOL ADDRESS;

8 (3) A COOKIE, BEACON, PIXEL TAG, MOBILE AD IDENTIFIER, OR 9 SIMILAR TECHNOLOGY;

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(4) A CONSUMER NUMBER, UNIQUE PSEUDONYM, OR USER ALIAS; OR

11 (5) A TELEPHONE NUMBER OR ANY OTHER FORM OF PERSISTENT OR 12 PROBABILISTIC IDENTIFIER THAT CAN BE USED TO IDENTIFY A PARTICULAR 13 CONSUMER OR DEVICE.

14 **14–4202.**

(A) A BUSINESS THAT COLLECTS A CONSUMER'S PERSONAL INFORMATION
 SHALL, AT OR BEFORE THE POINT OF COLLECTION, CLEARLY AND CONSPICUOUSLY
 NOTIFY A CONSUMER OF:

18(1) THE CATEGORIES OF PERSONAL INFORMATION THE BUSINESS19WILL COLLECT ABOUT THAT CONSUMER;

20 (2) THE BUSINESS PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE CATEGORIES OF 21 PERSONAL INFORMATION MAY BE USED;

- 22 (3) THE CATEGORIES OF THIRD PARTIES TO WHICH THE BUSINESS 23 DISCLOSES PERSONAL INFORMATION;
- 24 (4) THE BUSINESS PURPOSES FOR THIRD–PARTY DISCLOSURE; AND
- 25 (5) THE CONSUMER'S RIGHT TO REQUEST:

26 (I) A COPY OF THE CONSUMER'S PERSONAL INFORMATION 27 UNDER § 14–4203 OF THIS SUBTITLE;

28 (II) DELETION OF THE CONSUMER'S PERSONAL INFORMATION

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1 UNDER § 14–4205 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

2 (III) TO OPT OUT OF THIRD-PARTY DISCLOSURE UNDER § 3 14-4206 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

4 (B) A BUSINESS MAY NOT COLLECT ADDITIONAL CATEGORIES OF PERSONAL 5 INFORMATION OR USE PERSONAL INFORMATION COLLECTED FOR ADDITIONAL 6 PURPOSES WITHOUT FIRST PROVIDING THE CONSUMER WITH NOTICE CONSISTENT 7 WITH THIS SECTION.

8 **14–4203.**

9 (A) A CONSUMER MAY REQUEST THAT A BUSINESS THAT COLLECTS A 10 CONSUMER'S PERSONAL INFORMATION DISCLOSE TO THAT CONSUMER:

11 (1) THE SPECIFIC PIECES OF PERSONAL INFORMATION THE 12 BUSINESS HAS COLLECTED ABOUT THAT CONSUMER;

13(2) THE SOURCES FROM WHICH THE CONSUMER'S PERSONAL14INFORMATION WAS COLLECTED;

15(3) THE NAMES OF THIRD PARTIES TO WHICH THE BUSINESS16DISCLOSED THE CONSUMER'S PERSONAL INFORMATION; AND

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(4) THE BUSINESS PURPOSES FOR THIRD–PARTY DISCLOSURE.

18 **(B)** A BUSINESS SHALL PROVIDE THE INFORMATION SPECIFIED IN 19 SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION TO A CONSUMER ONLY ON RECEIPT OF A 20 VERIFIABLE CONSUMER REQUEST.

(C) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AFTER
RECEIVING A VERIFIABLE CONSUMER REQUEST, A BUSINESS SHALL PROMPTLY
TAKE STEPS TO PROVIDE, FREE OF CHARGE TO THE CONSUMER, THE PERSONAL
INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION.

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(2) THE INFORMATION MAY BE PROVIDED BY:

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(I) UNITED STATES MAIL; OR

(II) ELECTRONIC DELIVERY THAT IS PORTABLE AND, TO THE
 EXTENT TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE, IN A READILY USEABLE FORMAT THAT ALLOWS
 THE CONSUMER TO TRANSMIT THIS INFORMATION TO ANOTHER ENTITY WITHOUT
 HINDRANCE.

1 (D) A BUSINESS MAY PROVIDE PERSONAL INFORMATION TO A CONSUMER 2 AT ANY TIME, NOTWITHSTANDING § 14–4204 OF THIS SUBTITLE, BUT IS NOT 3 REQUIRED TO PROVIDE PERSONAL INFORMATION TO THE SAME CONSUMER MORE 4 THAN ONCE IN A 6–MONTH PERIOD.

5 (E) IF VERIFIED REQUESTS FROM A CONSUMER ARE EXCESSIVE, BECAUSE 6 OF THEIR REPETITIVE CHARACTER, A BUSINESS MAY:

7 (1) CHARGE A REASONABLE FEE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE
8 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF PROVIDING THE INFORMATION OR COMMUNICATION OR
9 TAKING THE ACTION REQUESTED; OR

10 (2) REFUSE TO ACT ON THE REQUEST AND NOTIFY THE CONSUMER OF 11 THE REASON FOR REFUSING THE REQUEST.

12 (F) A BUSINESS MAY NOT REQUIRE A CONSUMER TO CREATE AN ACCOUNT 13 WITH THE BUSINESS IN ORDER TO MAKE A VERIFIABLE CONSUMER REQUEST.

14 (G) A BUSINESS MAY NOT:

15 (1) RETAIN PERSONAL INFORMATION ABOUT A CONSUMER 16 COLLECTED FROM A SINGLE ONE-TIME TRANSACTION, UNLESS THE BUSINESS 17 REGULARLY RETAINS PERSONAL INFORMATION OF THAT TYPE IN THE ORDINARY 18 COURSE OF BUSINESS;

19(2)RE-IDENTIFY OR LINK ANY DATA THAT IN THE ORDINARY COURSE20OF BUSINESS IS NOT MAINTAINED IN A MANNER THAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED21PERSONAL INFORMATION; OR

22 (3) DISCLOSE PERSONAL INFORMATION IF THE DISCLOSURE WOULD 23 ADVERSELY AFFECT THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF OTHER CONSUMERS.

24 **14-4204.**

(A) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A BUSINESS
SHALL, IN A FORM THAT IS REASONABLY ACCESSIBLE TO CONSUMERS, MAKE
AVAILABLE TO CONSUMERS TWO OR MORE DESIGNATED METHODS FOR SUBMITTING
CONSUMER VERIFIED REQUESTS.

(2) (1) IF A BUSINESS MAINTAINS AN INTERNET WEBSITE IN
 CONNECTION WITH THE BUSINESS, THE BUSINESS SHALL MAINTAIN A WEBSITE PAGE
 THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

1 (II) A BUSINESS SHALL PROVIDE A TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE 2 NUMBER FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACCEPTING CONSUMER VERIFIED REQUESTS UNDER 3 THIS SUBSECTION, UNLESS THE BUSINESS MAINTAINS A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP 4 WITH THE CONSUMER.

5 (B) (1) A BUSINESS SHALL DELIVER TO A CONSUMER FREE OF CHARGE 6 WITHIN 45 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING A VERIFIABLE CONSUMER REQUEST FROM THE 7 CONSUMER THE INFORMATION REQUIRED IN § 14–4203 OF THIS SUBTITLE IN A 8 READILY USEABLE FORMAT THAT ALLOWS THE CONSUMER TO TRANSMIT THE 9 INFORMATION FROM ONE ENTITY TO ANOTHER ENTITY WITHOUT HINDRANCE.

10 (2) THE TIME PERIOD TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED INFORMATION 11 MAY BE EXTENDED ONCE BY UP TO AN ADDITIONAL 45 DAYS WHEN REASONABLY 12 NECESSARY, IF THE CONSUMER IS PROVIDED NOTICE OF THE EXTENSION WITHIN 13 THE FIRST 45-DAY PERIOD.

14 (C) A BUSINESS IS NOT REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION 15 REQUIRED BY § 14–4203 OF THIS SUBTITLE TO THE SAME CONSUMER MORE THAN 16 TWICE IN A 12–MONTH PERIOD.

17 (D) (1) IF A BUSINESS HAS AN ONLINE PRIVACY POLICY, THE BUSINESS 18 SHALL INCLUDE IN THE POLICY:

19(I) THE CATEGORIES OF PERSONAL INFORMATION THE20BUSINESS COLLECTS ABOUT CONSUMERS;

21 (II) THE BUSINESS PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE CATEGORIES OF 22 PERSONAL INFORMATION ARE USED;

23 (III) THE CATEGORIES OF THIRD PARTIES TO WHICH THE 24 BUSINESS DISCLOSES PERSONAL INFORMATION;

- 25(IV) THE BUSINESS PURPOSE FOR THIRD-PARTY DISCLOSURE;26AND
- 27 (V) THE CONSUMER'S RIGHT TO REQUEST: 28 1 A CODY OF THE CONSUMER'S DEPRONA
- 281.ACOPYOFTHECONSUMER'SPERSONAL29INFORMATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 14–4203 OF THIS SUBTITLE;

302.THE DELETION OF THE CONSUMER'S PERSONAL31INFORMATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 14–4205 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

13.TO OPT OUT OF THIRD-PARTY DISCLOSURE IN2ACCORDANCE WITH § 14-4206 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

3 (2) IF A BUSINESS DOES NOT HAVE AN ONLINE PRIVACY POLICY BUT
 4 DOES HAVE A BUSINESS WEBSITE, THE BUSINESS SHALL:

5 (I) INCLUDE THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER 6 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION ON THE WEBSITE; AND

7 (II) UPDATE THE INFORMATION AT LEAST ONCE EVERY 12 8 MONTHS.

9 (E) A BUSINESS SHALL ENSURE THAT AN INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE FOR 10 HANDLING CONSUMER INQUIRIES ABOUT THE BUSINESS'S PRIVACY PRACTICES OR 11 THE BUSINESS'S COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE IS INFORMED OF THE 12 REQUIREMENTS IN THIS SUBTITLE AND HOW TO DIRECT A CONSUMER TO EXERCISE 13 THE CONSUMER'S RIGHTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

14 **(F)** A BUSINESS MAY USE PERSONAL INFORMATION COLLECTED FROM A 15 CONSUMER IN CONNECTION WITH THE BUSINESS'S VERIFICATION OF THE 16 CONSUMER'S REQUEST ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES OF VERIFICATION.

17 **14–4205.**

18 (A) A CONSUMER MAY REQUEST THAT A BUSINESS DELETE ALL PERSONAL 19 INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONSUMER THAT THE BUSINESS HAS COLLECTED FROM 20 THE CONSUMER.

(B) A BUSINESS THAT COLLECTS PERSONAL INFORMATION ABOUT A
 CONSUMER SHALL DISCLOSE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 14–4202 OF THIS SUBTITLE,
 THE CONSUMER'S RIGHT TO REQUEST THE DELETION OF THE CONSUMER'S
 PERSONAL INFORMATION.

(C) A BUSINESS THAT RECEIVES A VERIFIABLE CONSUMER REQUEST FROM
A CONSUMER TO DELETE THE CONSUMER'S PERSONAL INFORMATION UNDER
SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL DELETE THE PERSONAL INFORMATION
FROM ITS RECORDS AND DIRECT SERVICE PROVIDERS TO DELETE THE PERSONAL
INFORMATION FROM THE SERVICE PROVIDERS' RECORDS.

30(D) A BUSINESS OR A SERVICE PROVIDER IS NOT REQUIRED TO COMPLY31WITH A CONSUMER'S REQUEST TO DELETE THE CONSUMER'S PERSONAL32INFORMATION IF IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE BUSINESS OR SERVICE PROVIDER TO

1 MAINTAIN THE PERSONAL INFORMATION IN ORDER TO:

2 (1) COMPLETE THE TRANSACTION FOR WHICH THE PERSONAL 3 INFORMATION WAS COLLECTED, PROVIDE A GOOD OR SERVICE REQUESTED BY THE 4 CONSUMER OR REASONABLY ANTICIPATED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF A BUSINESS'S 5 ONGOING BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CONSUMER, OR OTHERWISE 6 PERFORM A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE BUSINESS AND THE CONSUMER;

7 (2) DETECT SECURITY INCIDENTS, PROTECT AGAINST MALICIOUS, 8 DECEPTIVE, FRAUDULENT, OR ILLEGAL ACTIVITY, OR PROSECUTE THOSE 9 RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT ACTIVITY;

10 (3) IDENTIFY OR REPAIR ERRORS THAT IMPAIR EXISTING INTENDED 11 FUNCTIONALITY;

12 (4) EXERCISE FREE SPEECH, ENSURE THE RIGHT OF ANOTHER 13 CONSUMER TO EXERCISE THE RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH, OR EXERCISE ANOTHER 14 RIGHT PROVIDED FOR BY LAW;

15(5) ENGAGE IN PUBLIC OR PEER-REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC, 16HISTORICAL, OR STATISTICAL RESEARCH IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT ADHERES 17TO OTHER APPLICABLE ETHICS AND PRIVACY LAWS, WHEN THE BUSINESSES' DELETION OF THE INFORMATION IS LIKELY TO RENDER IMPOSSIBLE OR TO 18 SERIOUSLY IMPAIR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE RESEARCH, IF THE CONSUMER HAS 19 20**PROVIDED INFORMED CONSENT; OR**

21 (6) COMPLY WITH A LEGAL OBLIGATION.

22 **14–4206.**

23 (A) (1) A CONSUMER MAY, AT ANY TIME, DEMAND THAT A BUSINESS NOT 24 DISCLOSE THE CONSUMER'S PERSONAL INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES.

25 (2) THIS RIGHT MAY BE REFERRED TO AS THE "RIGHT TO OPT OUT OF 26 THIRD–PARTY DISCLOSURE".

(B) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, A BUSINESS MAY
 NOT DISCLOSE THE PERSONAL INFORMATION OF A CONSUMER TO A THIRD PARTY IF
 THE BUSINESS HAS ACTUAL KNOWLEDGE OR WILLFULLY DISREGARDS THE FACT
 THAT THE CONSUMER IS UNDER THE AGE OF 16 YEARS.

31(C)A BUSINESS THAT HAS RECEIVED DIRECTION FROM A CONSUMER NOT32TO DISCLOSE THE CONSUMER'S PERSONAL INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES MAY

1 **NOT:**

2 (1) DISCLOSE THE PERSONAL INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES 3 UNLESS THE CONSUMER LATER PROVIDES EXPRESS AUTHORIZATION FOR THAT 4 DISCLOSURE; OR

5 (2) REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO DISCLOSE THE PERSONAL 6 INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES FOR AT LEAST 12 MONTHS FROM THE DATE ON 7 WHICH THE BUSINESS RECEIVED THE DIRECTION FROM THE CONSUMER.

8 (D) A BUSINESS SHALL PROVIDE A CLEAR AND CONSPICUOUS LINK ON THE 9 INTERNET HOMEPAGE OF THE BUSINESS TO AN INTERNET WEBPAGE THAT ENABLES 10 A CONSUMER OR A PERSON AUTHORIZED BY THE CONSUMER TO OPT OUT OF THE 11 THIRD-PARTY DISCLOSURE OF THE CONSUMER'S PERSONAL INFORMATION.

12 (E) A CONSUMER MAY AUTHORIZE ANOTHER PERSON TO OPT OUT OF THE 13 SALE OR DISCLOSURE OF THE CONSUMER'S PERSONAL INFORMATION ON THE 14 CONSUMER'S BEHALF, AND A BUSINESS SHALL COMPLY WITH AN OPT-OUT REQUEST 15 RECEIVED FROM A PERSON AUTHORIZED BY THE CONSUMER TO ACT ON THE 16 CONSUMER'S BEHALF, IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE 17 ATTORNEY GENERAL.

18 **(F)** A BUSINESS MAY REQUIRE AUTHENTICATION OF A CONSUMER REQUEST 19 RECEIVED UNDER THIS SECTION IN A MANNER THAT IS REASONABLE IN LIGHT OF 20 THE NATURE OF THE PERSONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED.

21(G)A BUSINESS MAY NOT REQUIRE A CONSUMER TO CREATE AN ACCOUNT22IN ORDER TO EXERCISE THE RIGHT TO OPT OUT OF THIRD-PARTY DISCLOSURE.

23 **14–4207.**

24(A)A BUSINESS MAY NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST A CONSUMER BASED ON25THE CONSUMER'S DECISION TO EXERCISE RIGHTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

26 (B) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, DISCRIMINATION INCLUDES:

27 (1) DENYING GOODS OR SERVICES TO THE CONSUMER;

28 (2) CHARGING DIFFERENT PRICES OR RATES FOR GOODS OR 29 SERVICES, INCLUDING THROUGH THE USE OF DISCOUNTS OR OTHER BENEFITS OR 30 PENALTIES;

31 (3) PROVIDING A DIFFERENT LEVEL OR QUALITY OF GOODS OR

1 SERVICES TO THE CONSUMER; OR

2 (4) SUGGESTING THAT THE CONSUMER WILL RECEIVE A DIFFERENT 3 PRICE OR RATE FOR GOODS OR SERVICES OR A DIFFERENT LEVEL OR QUALITY OF 4 GOODS OR SERVICES.

5 **14–4208.**

6 (A) THE OBLIGATIONS IMPOSED BY THIS SUBTITLE MAY NOT RESTRICT THE 7 ABILITY OF A BUSINESS OR THIRD PARTY TO:

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(1) COMPLY WITH FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL LAWS;

9 (2) COMPLY WITH A CIVIL, CRIMINAL, OR REGULATORY INQUIRY, 10 INVESTIGATION, SUBPOENA, OR SUMMONS BY A FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL 11 AUTHORITY;

12 (3) COOPERATE WITH A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY CONCERNING 13 CONDUCT OR ACTIVITY THAT THE BUSINESS, SERVICE PROVIDER, OR THIRD PARTY 14 REASONABLY AND IN GOOD FAITH BELIEVES MAY VIOLATE FEDERAL, STATE, OR 15 LOCAL LAW;

16 (4) EXERCISE LEGAL RIGHTS OR PRIVILEGES; OR

17(5) ENGAGE IN NEWS-GATHERING ACTIVITIES PROTECTED BY THE18FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

19 (B) THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT APPLY TO:

(1) A BUSINESS COLLECTING OR DISCLOSING PERSONAL
 INFORMATION OF THE BUSINESS'S EMPLOYEES TO THE EXTENT THAT THE BUSINESS
 IS COLLECTING OR DISCLOSING THE INFORMATION WITHIN THE SCOPE OF ITS ROLE
 AS AN EMPLOYER;

(2) MEDICAL OR HEALTH INFORMATION THAT IS COLLECTED BY A
COVERED ENTITY OR BUSINESS ASSOCIATE GOVERNED BY THE PRIVACY, SECURITY,
AND BREACH NOTIFICATION RULES ISSUED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES IN 45 C.F.R. PARTS 160 AND 164, ESTABLISHED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1996 AND THE FEDERAL HEALTH INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY FOR ECONOMIC AND CLINICAL HEALTH ACT;

- 31
- (3) A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OR COVERED ENTITY GOVERNED BY

1 THE PRIVACY, SECURITY, AND BREACH NOTIFICATION RULES ISSUED BY THE U.S. 2 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES IN 45 C.F.R. PARTS 160 AND 164, 3 ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL HEALTH INSURANCE 4 PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1996, TO THE EXTENT THE PROVIDER 5 OR COVERED ENTITY MAINTAINS PATIENT INFORMATION IN THE SAME MANNER AS 6 MEDICAL INFORMATION OR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION AS DESCRIBED IN 7 ITEM (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION;

8 (4) INFORMATION COLLECTED AS PART OF A CLINICAL TRIAL 9 SUBJECT TO THE FEDERAL POLICY FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS, 10 ALSO KNOWN AS THE COMMON RULE, PURSUANT TO GOOD CLINICAL PRACTICE 11 GUIDELINES ISSUED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HARMONISATION OR IN 12 ACCORDANCE WITH HUMAN SUBJECT PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS OF THE U.S. 13 FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION;

14 (5) THE SALE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION TO OR FROM A CONSUMER
15 REPORTING AGENCY IF THAT INFORMATION IS TO BE REPORTED IN, OR USED TO
16 GENERATE, A "CONSUMER REPORT" AS DEFINED BY 15 U.S.C. § 1681(A) AND USE OF
17 THAT INFORMATION IS LIMITED BY THE FEDERAL FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT;

18 (6) PERSONAL INFORMATION COLLECTED, PROCESSED, SOLD, OR 19 DISCLOSED UNDER THE FEDERAL GRAMM-LEACH-BLILEY ACT AND 20 IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS;

(7) PERSONAL INFORMATION COLLECTED, PROCESSED, SOLD, OR
 DISCLOSED UNDER THE FEDERAL DRIVER'S PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT OF 1994;
 OR

(8) EDUCATION INFORMATION COVERED BY THE FEDERAL FAMILY
 EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT, 20 U.S.C. § 1232G AND 34 C.F.R. PART
 99.

27 **14–4209.**

28 **R**ESEARCH WITH PERSONAL INFORMATION THAT MAY HAVE BEEN 29 COLLECTED FROM A CONSUMER IN THE COURSE OF THE CONSUMER'S 30 INTERACTIONS WITH A BUSINESS'S SERVICE OR DEVICE FOR OTHER PURPOSES 31 SHALL BE:

32(1)USED SOLELY FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES THAT ARE COMPATIBLE33WITH THE CONTEXT IN WHICH THE PERSONAL INFORMATION WAS COLLECTED;

34 (2) **RESTRICTED FROM USE FOR ANY COMMERCIAL PURPOSE;**

1 (3) SUBSEQUENTLY PSEUDONYMIZED AND DE-IDENTIFIED, OR 2 DE-IDENTIFIED AND IN THE AGGREGATE, SO THAT THE INFORMATION CANNOT 3 REASONABLY IDENTIFY, RELATE TO, DESCRIBE, BE CAPABLE OF BEING ASSOCIATED 4 WITH, OR BE LINKED, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, TO A PARTICULAR CONSUMER;

5 (4) SUBJECT TO TECHNICAL SAFEGUARDS THAT PROHIBIT 6 RE-IDENTIFICATION OF THE CONSUMER TO WHOM THE INFORMATION MAY 7 PERTAIN;

8 (5) SUBJECT TO BUSINESS PROCESSES THAT SPECIFICALLY 9 PROHIBIT RE–IDENTIFICATION OF THE INFORMATION;

10(6)SUBJECT TO BUSINESS PROCESSES TO PREVENT INADVERTENT11RELEASE OF DE-IDENTIFIED INFORMATION;

12

(7) **PROTECTED FROM ANY RE-IDENTIFICATION ATTEMPTS; AND**

13 (8) SUBJECT TO THE ADDITIONAL SECURITY CONTROLS OF THE 14 BUSINESS THAT LIMIT ACCESS TO THE RESEARCH DATA TO ONLY THOSE 15 INDIVIDUALS IN A BUSINESS AS ARE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE RESEARCH 16 PURPOSE.

17 **14–4210.**

18 (A) A VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE IS:

19(1) AN UNFAIR, ABUSIVE, OR DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICE WITHIN20THE MEANING OF TITLE 13 OF THIS ARTICLE; AND

21 (2) SUBJECT TO THE ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTY PROVISIONS 22 CONTAINED IN TITLE 13 OF THIS ARTICLE.

23 (B) (1) A BUSINESS THAT DISCLOSES PERSONAL INFORMATION TO A 24 SERVICE PROVIDER MAY NOT BE LIABLE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE IF:

25(I)THE SERVICE PROVIDER RECEIVING THE PERSONAL26INFORMATION USES THE PERSONAL INFORMATION IN VIOLATION OF THE27RESTRICTIONS SET FORTH IN THIS SUBTITLE; AND

(II) AT THE TIME OF THE DISCLOSURE, THE BUSINESS DOES NOT
 HAVE ACTUAL KNOWLEDGE OR REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE SERVICE PROVIDER
 INTENDS TO COMMIT A VIOLATION.

1 (2) A SERVICE PROVIDER MAY NOT BE LIABLE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE 2 FOR THE OBLIGATIONS OF A BUSINESS FOR WHICH IT PROVIDES SERVICES AS SET 3 FORTH IN THIS SUBTITLE.

4 **14–4211.**

5 THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS 6 NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THIS SUBTITLE, INCLUDING REGULATIONS TO:

7 (1) IDENTIFY CATEGORIES OF PERSONAL INFORMATION IN ADDITION
 8 TO THOSE UNDER § 14–4208(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE IN ORDER TO ADDRESS CHANGES
 9 IN TECHNOLOGY, DATA COLLECTION PRACTICES, OBSTACLES TO IMPLEMENTATION,
 10 AND PRIVACY CONCERNS;

11 (2) UPDATE AS NEEDED THE DEFINITION OF UNIQUE IDENTIFIERS TO 12 ADDRESS CHANGES IN TECHNOLOGY, DATA COLLECTION, OBSTACLES TO 13 IMPLEMENTATION, AND PRIVACY CONCERNS;

14(3) ESTABLISH ANY EXCEPTIONS NECESSARY TO COMPLY WITH15STATE OR FEDERAL LAW, INCLUDING EXCEPTIONS RELATING TO TRADE SECRETS16AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS;

17 (4) ADOPT STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES:

18 (I) TO FACILITATE AND GOVERN THE SUBMISSION OF 19 VERIFIABLE CONSUMER REQUESTS UNDER §§ 14–4203 THROUGH 14–4206 OF THIS 20 SUBTITLE;

(II) TO GOVERN RESPONSES BY BUSINESSES AND SERVICE
 PROVIDERS TO VERIFIABLE CONSUMER REQUESTS UNDER §§ 14–4203 THROUGH
 14–4206 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

(III) FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF A RECOGNIZABLE AND
 UNIFORM OPT-OUT LOGO OR BUTTON BY ALL BUSINESSES TO PROMOTE CONSUMER
 AWARENESS OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO OPT OUT OF THIRD-PARTY DISCLOSURE OF
 CONSUMER PERSONAL INFORMATION;

28 (5) ADJUST THE MONETARY THRESHOLD IN § 14–4201(D)(1)(III)1 OF 29 THIS SUBTITLE TO REFLECT ANY INCREASE IN THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF 30 LABOR STATISTICS' CONSUMER PRICE INDEX;

31 (6) ENSURE THAT THE NOTICES AND INFORMATION THAT

BUSINESSES ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE ARE PROVIDED IN
 A MANNER THAT MAY BE EASILY UNDERSTOOD BY THE AVERAGE CONSUMER, ARE
 ACCESSIBLE TO CONSUMERS WITH DISABILITIES, AND ARE AVAILABLE IN THE
 LANGUAGE PRIMARILY USED TO INTERACT WITH THE CONSUMER, INCLUDING
 ADOPTING REGULATIONS, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES REGARDING FINANCIAL
 INCENTIVE OFFERINGS; AND

7 (7) FURTHER THE PURPOSES OF §§ 14-4203 THROUGH 14-4206 OF 8 THIS SUBTITLE, WITH THE GOAL OF MINIMIZING THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN ON 9 CONSUMERS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY, SECURITY CONCERNS, AND THE BURDEN ON THE BUSINESS, TO GOVERN A DETERMINATION BY 10 A BUSINESS THAT A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION RECEIVED BY A CONSUMER IS A 11 VERIFIABLE CONSUMER REQUEST, INCLUDING TREATING A REQUEST SUBMITTED 12THROUGH A PASSWORD-PROTECTED ACCOUNT MAINTAINED BY THE CONSUMER 1314WITH THE BUSINESS WHILE THE CONSUMER IS LOGGED INTO THE ACCOUNT AS A 15VERIFIABLE CONSUMER REQUEST AND PROVIDING A MECHANISM FOR A CONSUMER WHO DOES NOT MAINTAIN AN ACCOUNT WITH THE BUSINESS TO REQUEST 16 INFORMATION THROUGH THE BUSINESS'S AUTHENTICATION OF THE CONSUMER'S 1718 **IDENTITY.**

19 **14–4212.**

20 (A) WHEREVER POSSIBLE, LAW RELATING TO CONSUMERS' PERSONAL 21 INFORMATION SHOULD BE CONSTRUED TO HARMONIZE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF 22 THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) IN THE EVENT OF A CONFLICT BETWEEN OTHER LAWS AND THIS
 SUBTITLE, THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW THAT AFFORD THE GREATEST PROTECTION
 FOR THE RIGHT OF PRIVACY FOR CONSUMERS SHALL CONTROL.

26 **14–4213.**

IF A SERIES OF STEPS OR TRANSACTIONS WHERE COMPONENT PARTS OF A SINGLE TRANSACTION ARE TAKEN WITH THE INTENT OF AVOIDING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBTITLE, A COURT SHALL DISREGARD THE INTERMEDIATE STEPS OR TRANSACTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF CARRYING OUT THIS SUBTITLE.

32 **14–4214.**

A PROVISION OF A CONTRACT OR AN AGREEMENT OF ANY KIND THAT
 PURPORTS TO WAIVE OR LIMIT IN ANY WAY THE RIGHTS OF A CONSUMER UNDER
 THIS SUBTITLE, INCLUDING A RIGHT TO A REMEDY OR MEANS OF ENFORCEMENT,

1 SHALL BE CONSIDERED CONTRARY TO PUBLIC POLICY AND SHALL BE VOID AND

2 UNENFORCEABLE.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 4 January 1, 2021.