



SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senate Bill 588

State Government - Protection of Personally Identifiable Information - University

System of Maryland

February 12, 2020

Favorable with Amendment

Patrick Hogan, Vice Chancellor for Government Relations

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on Senate Bill 588. The bill expands security protocols that govern the collection, processing, sharing, and disposal of personally identifiable information (PII) by the University System of Maryland (USM).

The USM institutions currently do not have a comprehensive privacy program. This bill establishes the requirement for the development and implementation of privacy programs systemwide. These programs give our community members and the public the ability to have greater transparency around the data we collect and give individuals greater control over the data we hold about them. The bill also requires that we provide clear privacy policies and notice so that community members know about the programs and how to access them.

The USM is working with the sponsor and seeking amendments that are intended to correct mostly interpretative language.

The USM takes privacy and security of the information we hold seriously. Last year, the USM convened a multi-stakeholder group of legal and technical experts to work through the best ways to address privacy and security in our communities. Senate Bill 588 is the result of several months of discussion by many experts and conforms to the direction other states and countries are taking related to privacy. The features in Senate Bill 588 to enhance privacy across the higher education community include a broad definition of Personally Identifiable Information that should capture all the different forms of information that could relate to an individual.

In addition, the bill forms a condition that institutions create a privacy program that grants individuals several rights including the right to request: a listing of the information held about an individual, the correction of information that the individual feels is inaccurate, and the deletion of information about the individual that the university may have no reason to hold.

The bill also requires institutions have an information security and risk management program and that the program be periodically reviewed by a third party and that each university publish a privacy notice, on the university's website, that informs individuals of their rights.

The USM requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 588.