

# HOUSE BILL 1656

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By: **Delegate McComas**

Introduced and read first time: March 2, 2020

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commercial Law – Consumer Privacy and Data Collection**

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  
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  
12 personal information, re-identifying or linking certain data, or disclosing certain  
13 personal information under certain circumstances; requiring a business to include  
14 certain information in a certain policy or website and update certain information  
15 periodically; requiring a business to ensure that an individual responsible for  
16 handling certain consumer inquiries is informed of certain requirements relating to  
17 consumer personal information privacy and how to direct consumers to exercise their  
18 rights; authorizing a consumer to request that a business delete certain personal  
19 information and requiring a business to comply with the request in a certain manner;  
20 authorizing 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  
22 consumer’s request to opt out in a certain manner; authorizing a business to require  
23 an authentication of a certain request; prohibiting a business from taking certain  
24 actions against a consumer who exercises the consumer’s rights to consumer  
25 personal information privacy; providing for certain exceptions to an otherwise  
26 authorized disclosure of consumer personal information; providing that a certain  
27 consumer may institute a certain cause of action under certain circumstances;  
28 requiring that a court consider certain circumstances for a certain cause of action;  
29 authorizing a business or third party to seek the opinion of the Attorney General for  
30 a certain purpose; establishing certain penalties for a certain violation; requiring  
31 that certain proceeds be distributed in a certain way; authorizing the Office of the

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Attorney General to adopt certain regulations; establishing the Consumer Privacy  
2 Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; specifying the purpose of the Fund; requiring the  
3 State Treasurer to hold and account for the Fund; specifying the contents of the  
4 Fund; specifying the purpose for which the Fund may be used; providing for the  
5 construction of certain provisions of this Act; defining certain terms; and generally  
6 relating to privacy of consumer personal information.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Commercial Law

9 Section 14–4201 through 14–4216 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 42.  
10 Consumer Personal Information Privacy”

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Commercial Law**

16 **SUBTITLE 42. CONSUMER PERSONAL INFORMATION PRIVACY.**

17 **14–4201.**

18 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
19 INDICATED.

20 (B) (1) “AGGREGATE CONSUMER INFORMATION” MEANS INFORMATION  
21 THAT RELATES TO A GROUP OR CATEGORY OF CONSUMERS, FROM WHICH  
22 INDIVIDUAL CONSUMER IDENTITIES HAVE BEEN REMOVED, THAT IS NOT LINKED OR  
23 REASONABLY LINKABLE TO ANY CONSUMER, INCLUDING THROUGH A DEVICE.

24 (2) “AGGREGATE CONSUMER INFORMATION” DOES NOT INCLUDE AN  
25 INDIVIDUAL CONSUMER RECORD THAT HAS BEEN DE-IDENTIFIED.

26 (C) (1) “BIOMETRIC INFORMATION” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL’S  
27 PHYSIOLOGICAL, BIOLOGICAL, OR BEHAVIORAL CHARACTERISTICS, INCLUDING AN  
28 INDIVIDUAL’S DNA, THAT CAN BE USED, ALONE OR IN COMBINATION WITH EACH  
29 OTHER OR WITH OTHER IDENTIFYING DATA, TO ESTABLISH INDIVIDUAL IDENTITY.

30 (2) “BIOMETRIC INFORMATION” INCLUDES:

31 (I) IMAGERY OF THE IRIS, RETINA, FINGERPRINT, FACE, HAND,  
32 PALM, AND VEIN PATTERNS, AND VOICE RECORDINGS FROM WHICH AN IDENTIFIER  
33 TEMPLATE, SUCH AS A FACE PRINT, A MINUTIAE TEMPLATE, OR A VOICEPRINT, CAN  
34 BE EXTRACTED; AND

1                   **(II) KEYSTROKE PATTERNS OR RHYTHMS, GAIT PATTERNS OR**  
2 **RHYTHMS, AND SLEEP, HEALTH, OR EXERCISE DATA THAT CONTAIN IDENTIFYING**  
3 **INFORMATION.**

4           **(D) “BUSINESS” MEANS:**

5                   **(1) A SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP, A PARTNERSHIP, A LIMITED LIABILITY**  
6 **COMPANY, A CORPORATION, AN ASSOCIATION, OR ANY OTHER LEGAL ENTITY THAT:**

7                           **(I) IS ORGANIZED OR OPERATED FOR THE PROFIT OR**  
8 **FINANCIAL BENEFIT OF ITS OWNERS;**

9                           **(II) COLLECTS THE PERSONAL INFORMATION OF AN**  
10 **INDIVIDUAL OR A CONSUMER; AND**

11                           **(III) SATISFIES ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING THRESHOLDS:**

12                                   **1. HAS ANNUAL GROSS REVENUES IN EXCESS OF**  
13 **\$25,000,000;**

14                                   **2. ANNUALLY BUYS, RECEIVES FOR THE BUSINESS’S**  
15 **COMMERCIAL PURPOSES, SELLS, OR SHARES FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES, ALONE**  
16 **OR IN COMBINATION, THE PERSONAL INFORMATION OF 50,000 OR MORE**  
17 **CONSUMERS, HOUSEHOLDS, OR DEVICES; OR**

18                                   **3. DERIVES AT LEAST ONE-HALF OF ITS ANNUAL**  
19 **REVENUES FROM SELLING CONSUMERS’ PERSONAL INFORMATION; OR**

20                   **(2) ANY ENTITY THAT:**

21                           **(I) CONTROLS OR IS CONTROLLED BY A BUSINESS UNDER ITEM**  
22 **(1) OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND**

23                           **(II) SHARES A NAME, SERVICE MARK, OR TRADEMARK WITH THE**  
24 **BUSINESS.**

25           **(E) (1) “BUSINESS PURPOSE” MEANS THE USE OF PERSONAL**  
26 **INFORMATION BY A BUSINESS OR A SERVICE PROVIDER IN A MANNER REASONABLY**  
27 **NECESSARY AND PROPORTIONATE TO ACHIEVE THE OPERATIONAL PURPOSE FOR**  
28 **WHICH THE INFORMATION WAS COLLECTED OR PROCESSED OR FOR ANOTHER**  
29 **OPERATIONAL PURPOSE THAT IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE CONTEXT IN WHICH THE**  
30 **PERSONAL INFORMATION WAS COLLECTED.**

1           **(2) “BUSINESS PURPOSE” INCLUDES:**

2                   **(I) AUDITING RELATED TO A CURRENT INTERACTION WITH THE**  
3 **CONSUMER AND CONCURRENT TRANSACTIONS, INCLUDING COUNTING AD**  
4 **IMPRESSIONS TO UNIQUE VISITORS, VERIFYING POSITIONING AND QUALITY OF AD**  
5 **IMPRESSIONS, AND AUDITING COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SPECIFICATION AND OTHER**  
6 **STANDARDS;**

7                   **(II) DETECTING SECURITY INCIDENTS, PROTECTING AGAINST**  
8 **MALICIOUS, DECEPTIVE, FRAUDULENT, OR ILLEGAL ACTIVITY, AND PROSECUTING**  
9 **THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT ACTIVITY;**

10                   **(III) DEBUGGING TO IDENTIFY AND REPAIR ERRORS THAT**  
11 **IMPAIR EXISTING INTENDED FUNCTIONALITY;**

12                   **(IV) SHORT-TERM, TRANSIENT USE, PROVIDED THE PERSONAL**  
13 **INFORMATION IS NOT DISCLOSED TO ANOTHER THIRD PARTY AND IS NOT USED TO**  
14 **BUILD A PROFILE ABOUT A CONSUMER OR OTHERWISE ALTER AN INDIVIDUAL**  
15 **CONSUMER’S EXPERIENCE OUTSIDE THE CURRENT INTERACTION, INCLUDING THE**  
16 **CONTEXTUAL CUSTOMIZATION OF ADS SHOWN AS PART OF THE SAME INTERACTION;**

17                   **(V) PERFORMING SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE BUSINESS OR**  
18 **SERVICE PROVIDED, INCLUDING:**

- 19                   1.   **MAINTAINING OR SERVICING ACCOUNTS;**
- 20                   2.   **PROVIDING CUSTOMER SERVICE;**
- 21                   3.   **PROCESSING OR FULFILLING ORDERS AND**  
22 **TRANSACTIONS;**
- 23                   4.   **VERIFYING CUSTOMER INFORMATION;**
- 24                   5.   **PROCESSING PAYMENTS;**
- 25                   6.   **PROVIDING FINANCING;**
- 26                   7.   **PROVIDING ADVERTISING OR MARKETING SERVICES;**
- 27                   8.   **PROVIDING ANALYTIC SERVICES; AND**
- 28                   9.   **PROVIDING SIMILAR SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE**

1 BUSINESS OR SERVICE PROVIDER;

2 (VI) UNDERTAKING INTERNAL RESEARCH FOR TECHNOLOGICAL  
3 DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION; AND

4 (VII) UNDERTAKING ACTIVITIES TO:

5 1. VERIFY OR MAINTAIN THE QUALITY OR SAFETY OF A  
6 SERVICE OR DEVICE THAT IS OWNED BY, MANUFACTURED BY, MANUFACTURED FOR,  
7 OR CONTROLLED BY THE BUSINESS; AND

8 2. IMPROVE, UPGRADE, OR ENHANCE THE SERVICE OR  
9 DEVICE THAT IS OWNED BY, MANUFACTURED BY, MANUFACTURED FOR, OR  
10 CONTROLLED BY THE BUSINESS.

11 (F) (1) "COLLECT" MEANS TO BUY, RENT, GATHER, OBTAIN, RECEIVE, OR  
12 ACCESS ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION RELATING TO A CONSUMER BY ANY MEANS.

13 (2) "COLLECT" INCLUDES TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM THE  
14 CONSUMER ACTIVELY OR PASSIVELY OR BY OBSERVING THE CONSUMER'S  
15 BEHAVIOR.

16 (G) (1) "COMMERCIAL PURPOSE" MEANS TO ADVANCE A PERSON'S  
17 COMMERCIAL OR ECONOMIC INTERESTS, INCLUDING:

18 (I) INDUCING ANOTHER PERSON TO BUY, RENT, LEASE, JOIN,  
19 SUBSCRIBE TO, PROVIDE, OR EXCHANGE PRODUCTS, GOODS, PROPERTY,  
20 INFORMATION, OR SERVICES; OR

21 (II) ENABLING OR EFFECTING, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, A  
22 COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION.

23 (2) "COMMERCIAL PURPOSE" DOES NOT INCLUDE ENGAGING IN  
24 SPEECH THAT STATE OR FEDERAL COURTS HAVE RECOGNIZED AS NONCOMMERCIAL  
25 SPEECH, INCLUDING POLITICAL SPEECH AND JOURNALISM.

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

27 (I) "CONTROL" MEANS:

28 (1) OWNERSHIP OF, OR POWER TO VOTE, MORE THAN 50% OF THE  
29 OUTSTANDING SHARES OF ANY CLASS OF VOTING SECURITY OF A BUSINESS;

1           **(2) CONTROL IN ANY MANNER OVER THE ELECTION OF A MAJORITY**  
2 **OF THE DIRECTORS, OR OF INDIVIDUALS EXERCISING SIMILAR FUNCTIONS; OR**

3           **(3) THE POWER TO EXERCISE A CONTROLLING INFLUENCE OVER THE**  
4 **MANAGEMENT OF A COMPANY.**

5           **(J) “DE-IDENTIFIED” MEANS, WITH RESPECT TO INFORMATION,**  
6 **PROCESSED SO THAT THE INFORMATION CANNOT REASONABLY IDENTIFY, RELATE**  
7 **TO, DESCRIBE, BE CAPABLE OF BEING ASSOCIATED WITH, OR BE LINKED TO A**  
8 **PARTICULAR CONSUMER, IF A BUSINESS THAT USES DE-IDENTIFIED INFORMATION:**

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

12           **(2) HAS IMPLEMENTED BUSINESS PROCESSES THAT SPECIFICALLY**  
13 **PROHIBIT RE-IDENTIFICATION OF THE INFORMATION;**

14           **(3) HAS IMPLEMENTED BUSINESS PROCESSES TO PREVENT**  
15 **INADVERTENT RELEASE OF DE-IDENTIFIED INFORMATION; AND**

16           **(4) MAKES NO ATTEMPT TO RE-IDENTIFY THE INFORMATION.**

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

22           **(2) “DESIGNATED METHOD FOR SUBMITTING REQUESTS” INCLUDES**  
23 **A CONSUMER-FRIENDLY MEANS OF CONTACTING A BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE**  
24 **ATTORNEY GENERAL UNDER § 14-4212(4) OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

25           **(L) “DEVICE” MEANS A PHYSICAL OBJECT THAT IS CAPABLE OF**  
26 **CONNECTING TO THE INTERNET OR TO ANOTHER DEVICE.**

27           **(M) “HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION” MEANS:**

28           **(1) A CONSUMER’S INSURANCE POLICY NUMBER OR SUBSCRIBER**  
29 **IDENTIFICATION NUMBER;**

30           **(2) ANY UNIQUE IDENTIFIER USED BY A HEALTH INSURER TO**  
31 **IDENTIFY THE CONSUMER; OR**

1           **(3) ANY INFORMATION IN THE CONSUMER'S APPLICATION AND**  
2 **CLAIMS HISTORY, INCLUDING ANY APPEALS RECORDS, IF THE INFORMATION IS**  
3 **LINKED OR REASONABLY LINKABLE TO A CONSUMER OR HOUSEHOLD, INCLUDING**  
4 **VIA DEVICE BY A BUSINESS OR SERVICE PROVIDER.**

5           **(N) "HOMEPAGE" MEANS:**

6           **(1) THE INTRODUCTORY PAGE OF AN INTERNET WEBSITE AND ANY**  
7 **INTERNET WEBPAGE WHERE PERSONAL INFORMATION IS COLLECTED; OR**

8           **(2) IN THE CASE OF AN ONLINE SERVICE OR APPLICATION:**

9           **(I) THE SERVICE OR APPLICATION PLATFORM PAGE OR**  
10 **DOWNLOAD PAGE;**

11           **(II) A LINK WITHIN THE SERVICE OR APPLICATION, SUCH AS**  
12 **FROM THE SERVICE OR APPLICATION CONFIGURATION, "ABOUT", "INFORMATION",**  
13 **OR SETTINGS PAGE; OR**

14           **(III) ANY OTHER LOCATION THAT ALLOWS A CONSUMER TO**  
15 **REVIEW THE NOTICE REQUIRED BY § 14-4202(A) OF THIS SUBTITLE, WHETHER**  
16 **BEFORE OR AFTER DOWNLOADING THE APPLICATION OR SERVICE.**

17           **(O) "INFER" MEANS TO DERIVE INFORMATION, DATA, ASSUMPTIONS, OR**  
18 **CONCLUSIONS FROM FACTS, EVIDENCE, OR ANOTHER SOURCE OF INFORMATION OR**  
19 **DATA.**

20           **(P) (1) "PERSONAL INFORMATION" MEANS INFORMATION THAT**  
21 **IDENTIFIES, RELATES TO, DESCRIBES, IS REASONABLY CAPABLE OF BEING**  
22 **ASSOCIATED WITH, OR COULD REASONABLY BE LINKED, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY,**  
23 **WITH A PARTICULAR CONSUMER OR THE CONSUMER'S DEVICE.**

24           **(2) "PERSONAL INFORMATION" INCLUDES:**

25           **(I) IDENTIFIERS SUCH AS A REAL NAME, AN ALIAS, A POSTAL**  
26 **ADDRESS, A UNIQUE PERSONAL IDENTIFIER, AN ONLINE IDENTIFIER, AN INTERNET**  
27 **PROTOCOL ADDRESS, AN E-MAIL ADDRESS, AN ACCOUNT NAME, A SOCIAL**  
28 **SECURITY NUMBER, A DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER, A PASSPORT NUMBER, OR OTHER**  
29 **INFORMATION THAT IDENTIFIES, RELATES TO, DESCRIBES, OR IS CAPABLE OF BEING**  
30 **ASSOCIATED WITH A PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL;**

31           **(II) CHARACTERISTICS OF PROTECTED CLASSIFICATIONS**

1 UNDER STATE OR FEDERAL LAW;

2 (III) COMMERCIAL INFORMATION, INCLUDING RECORDS OF  
3 PERSONAL PROPERTY, PRODUCTS OR SERVICES PURCHASED, OBTAINED, OR  
4 CONSIDERED, OR OTHER PURCHASING OR CONSUMING HISTORIES OR TENDENCIES;

5 (IV) BIOMETRIC INFORMATION;

6 (V) INTERNET OR OTHER ELECTRONIC NETWORK ACTIVITY  
7 INFORMATION, INCLUDING BROWSING HISTORY, SEARCH HISTORY, AND  
8 INFORMATION REGARDING A CONSUMER'S INTERACTION WITH A WEBSITE,  
9 APPLICATION, OR ADVERTISEMENT;

10 (VI) GEOLOCATION DATA;

11 (VII) AUDIO, ELECTRONIC, VISUAL, THERMAL, OLFACTORY, OR  
12 SIMILAR INFORMATION;

13 (VIII) PROFESSIONAL OR EMPLOYMENT-RELATED INFORMATION;

14 (IX) EDUCATION INFORMATION AS DEFINED IN THE FAMILY  
15 EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT; AND

16 (X) INFERENCES DRAWN FROM ANY OF THE INFORMATION  
17 IDENTIFIED IN THIS SUBSECTION TO CREATE A PROFILE ABOUT A CONSUMER  
18 REFLECTING THE CONSUMER'S PREFERENCES, CHARACTERISTICS,  
19 PSYCHOLOGICAL TRENDS, PREDISPOSITIONS, BEHAVIOR, ATTITUDES,  
20 INTELLIGENCE, ABILITIES, AND APTITUDES.

21 (3) "PERSONAL INFORMATION" DOES NOT INCLUDE:

22 (I) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION THAT IS LAWFULLY  
23 MADE AVAILABLE FROM FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS;

24 (II) DE-IDENTIFIED CONSUMER INFORMATION; OR

25 (III) AGGREGATE CONSUMER INFORMATION.

26 (Q) "PROBABILISTIC IDENTIFIER" MEANS THE IDENTIFICATION OF A  
27 CONSUMER OR A DEVICE TO A DEGREE OF CERTAINTY OF MORE PROBABLE THAN  
28 NOT BASED ON CATEGORIES OF PERSONAL INFORMATION INCLUDED IN, OR SIMILAR  
29 TO, THE CATEGORIES LISTED UNDER SUBSECTION (P) OF THIS SECTION.



1           **(R) “PROCESSING” MEANS AN OPERATION OR A SET OF OPERATIONS THAT**  
2 **IS PERFORMED ON PERSONAL DATA OR ON SETS OF PERSONAL DATA, WHETHER OR**  
3 **NOT BY AUTOMATED MEANS.**

4           **(S) “PSEUDONYMIZE” MEANS THE PROCESSING OF PERSONAL**  
5 **INFORMATION IN A MANNER THAT RENDERS THE PERSONAL INFORMATION NO**  
6 **LONGER ATTRIBUTABLE TO A SPECIFIC CONSUMER WITHOUT THE USE OF**  
7 **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, IF THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS KEPT**  
8 **SEPARATELY AND IS SUBJECT TO TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SAFEGUARDS**  
9 **TO ENSURE THAT THE PERSONAL INFORMATION IS NOT ATTRIBUTED TO AN**  
10 **IDENTIFIED OR IDENTIFIABLE CONSUMER.**

11           **(T) “RESEARCH” MEANS SCIENTIFIC, SYSTEMATIC STUDY AND**  
12 **OBSERVATION, INCLUDING BASIC RESEARCH OR APPLIED RESEARCH, THAT IS IN**  
13 **THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND THAT ADHERES TO APPLICABLE ETHICS AND PRIVACY**  
14 **LAWS OR STUDIES CONDUCTED IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE AREA OF PUBLIC**  
15 **HEALTH.**

16           **(U) (1) “SELL” MEANS SELLING, RENTING, RELEASING, DISCLOSING,**  
17 **DISSEMINATING, MAKING AVAILABLE, TRANSFERRING, OR OTHERWISE**  
18 **COMMUNICATING ORALLY, IN WRITING, OR BY ELECTRONIC OR OTHER MEANS A**  
19 **CONSUMER’S PERSONAL INFORMATION BY A BUSINESS TO ANOTHER BUSINESS OR A**  
20 **THIRD PARTY FOR MONETARY OR OTHER VALUABLE CONSIDERATION.**

21           **(2) “SELL” DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

22                   **(I) THE USE OF A BUSINESS BY A CONSUMER TO**  
23 **INTENTIONALLY DISCLOSE PERSONAL INFORMATION, THE DISCLOSURE OF**  
24 **PERSONAL INFORMATION AT THE DIRECTION OF A CONSUMER, OR THE USE OF THE**  
25 **BUSINESS BY THE CONSUMER TO INTENTIONALLY INTERACT WITH A THIRD PARTY**  
26 **PROVIDED THAT THE THIRD PARTY DOES NOT ALSO SELL THE PERSONAL**  
27 **INFORMATION, UNLESS THAT DISCLOSURE WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE**  
28 **PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE;**

29                   **(II) THE USE OR SHARING OF AN IDENTIFIER BY A BUSINESS**  
30 **FOR A CONSUMER WHO HAS OPTED OUT OF THE SALE OF THE CONSUMER’S**  
31 **PERSONAL INFORMATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALERTING THIRD PARTIES THAT**  
32 **THE CONSUMER HAS OPTED OUT OF THE SALE OF THE CONSUMER’S PERSONAL**  
33 **INFORMATION;**

34                   **(III) THE USE BY A BUSINESS OR THE SHARING OF PERSONAL**  
35 **INFORMATION OF A CONSUMER BY A BUSINESS WITH A SERVICE PROVIDER THAT IS**  
36 **NECESSARY TO PERFORM A BUSINESS PURPOSE IF:**

1                   1.     **THE BUSINESS HAS PROVIDED NOTICE THAT THE**  
2 **INFORMATION IS BEING USED OR SHARED IN ITS TERMS AND CONDITIONS**  
3 **CONSISTENT WITH § 14-4202 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

4                   2.     **THE SERVICE PROVIDER DOES NOT FURTHER**  
5 **COLLECT, SELL, OR USE THE PERSONAL INFORMATION OF THE CONSUMER EXCEPT**  
6 **AS NECESSARY TO PERFORM THE BUSINESS PURPOSE; OR**

7                   (IV) **THE TRANSFER BY A BUSINESS TO A THIRD PARTY OF THE**  
8 **PERSONAL INFORMATION OF A CONSUMER AS AN ASSET THAT IS PART OF A MERGER,**  
9 **ACQUISITION, BANKRUPTCY, OR OTHER TRANSACTION IN WHICH THE THIRD PARTY:**

10                   1.     **ASSUMES CONTROL OF ALL OR PART OF THE**  
11 **BUSINESS, PROVIDED THAT THE INFORMATION IS USED OR SHARED CONSISTENTLY**  
12 **IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 14-4203 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

13                   2.     **PROVIDES PRIOR NOTICE:**

14                   A.     **OF ANY NEW OR CHANGED PRACTICE TO THE**  
15 **CONSUMER IF THE THIRD PARTY MATERIALLY ALTERS HOW IT USES OR SHARES THE**  
16 **PERSONAL INFORMATION OF A CONSUMER IN A MANNER THAT IS MATERIALLY**  
17 **INCONSISTENT WITH THE PROMISES MADE AT THE TIME OF COLLECTION; AND**

18                   B.     **THAT IS SUFFICIENTLY PROMINENT AND ROBUST TO**  
19 **ENSURE THAT EXISTING CONSUMERS CAN EASILY EXERCISE THEIR CHOICES**  
20 **CONSISTENTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 14-4203 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

21                   (V)    **“SERVICE” MEANS WORK, LABOR, AND SERVICES, INCLUDING SERVICES**  
22 **FURNISHED IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALE OR REPAIR OF GOODS.**

23                   (W)    **“SERVICE PROVIDER” MEANS A PERSON THAT PROCESSES**  
24 **INFORMATION ON BEHALF OF A BUSINESS AND TO WHICH THE BUSINESS DISCLOSES**  
25 **A CONSUMER’S PERSONAL INFORMATION FOR A BUSINESS PURPOSE IN**  
26 **ACCORDANCE WITH A WRITTEN CONTRACT IF THE CONTRACT PROHIBITS THE**  
27 **ENTITY RECEIVING THE INFORMATION FROM RETAINING, USING, OR DISCLOSING**  
28 **THE PERSONAL INFORMATION FOR ANY PURPOSE OTHER THAN FOR THE SPECIFIC**  
29 **PURPOSE OF PERFORMING THE SERVICES SPECIFIED IN THE CONTRACT FOR THE**  
30 **BUSINESS, OR AS OTHERWISE ALLOWED BY THIS SUBTITLE.**

31                   (X)    **“THIRD PARTY” MEANS A PERSON THAT IS NOT:**

32                   (1)    **THE BUSINESS THAT COLLECTS PERSONAL INFORMATION FROM**

1 CONSUMERS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE OR A SERVICE PROVIDER OF THAT BUSINESS;  
2 OR

3 (2) A PERSON TO WHOM THE BUSINESS DISCLOSES A CONSUMER'S  
4 PERSONAL INFORMATION FOR A BUSINESS PURPOSE IN ACCORDANCE WITH A  
5 WRITTEN CONTRACT THAT:

6 (I) PROHIBITS THE PERSON RECEIVING THE PERSONAL  
7 INFORMATION FROM:

8 1. SELLING THE INFORMATION;

9 2. RETAINING, USING, OR DISCLOSING THE PERSONAL  
10 INFORMATION FOR ANY PURPOSE OTHER THAN FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF  
11 PERFORMING THE SERVICES SPECIFIED IN THE CONTRACT; OR

12 3. RETAINING, USING, OR DISCLOSING THE  
13 INFORMATION OUTSIDE THE DIRECT BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE  
14 PERSON AND THE BUSINESS; AND

15 (II) INCLUDES A CERTIFICATION MADE BY THE PERSON  
16 RECEIVING THE PERSONAL INFORMATION THAT THE PERSON UNDERSTANDS AND  
17 WILL COMPLY WITH THE RESTRICTIONS IN ITEM (I) OF THIS ITEM.

18 (Y) "UNIQUE IDENTIFIER" MEANS A PERSISTENT IDENTIFIER THAT CAN BE  
19 USED TO RECOGNIZE A CONSUMER OR A DEVICE THAT IS LINKED TO A CONSUMER  
20 OR HOUSEHOLD, OVER TIME AND ACROSS DIFFERENT TECHNOLOGIES, INCLUDING:

21 (1) A DEVICE IDENTIFIER;

22 (2) AN INTERNET PROTOCOL ADDRESS;

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

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

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

29 (Z) "VERIFIABLE CONSUMER REQUEST" MEANS A REQUEST:

1           **(1) MADE BY:**

2                   **(I) A CONSUMER;**

3                   **(II) A CONSUMER ON BEHALF OF THE CONSUMER'S MINOR**  
4 **CHILD; OR**

5                   **(III) A PERSON WHO IS REGISTERED WITH THE SECRETARY OF**  
6 **STATE WHO IS AUTHORIZED TO ACT ON THE CONSUMER'S BEHALF; AND**

7           **(2) WHERE THE BUSINESS CAN REASONABLY VERIFY THE PERSON**  
8 **MAKING THE REQUEST IS:**

9                   **(I) THE CONSUMER ABOUT WHOM THE BUSINESS HAS**  
10 **COLLECTED PERSONAL INFORMATION; OR**

11                   **(II) A PERSON AUTHORIZED BY THE CONSUMER TO ACT ON THE**  
12 **CONSUMER'S BEHALF.**

13 **14-4202.**

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

17                   **(1) THE CATEGORIES OF PERSONAL INFORMATION THE BUSINESS**  
18 **WILL COLLECT ABOUT THE CONSUMER;**

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

21                   **(3) THE CATEGORIES OF THIRD PARTIES TO WHICH THE BUSINESS**  
22 **DISCLOSES PERSONAL INFORMATION;**

23                   **(4) THE BUSINESS PURPOSES FOR THIRD-PARTY DISCLOSURE; AND**

24                   **(5) THE CONSUMER'S RIGHT TO REQUEST:**

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

27                   **(II) DELETION OF THE CONSUMER'S PERSONAL INFORMATION**  
28 **UNDER § 14-4205 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

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

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

7 14-4203.

8 (A) A CONSUMER MAY REQUEST THAT A BUSINESS THAT COLLECTS OR  
9 SELLS A CONSUMER'S PERSONAL INFORMATION DISCLOSE TO THE CONSUMER:

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

12 (2) THE SOURCES FROM WHICH THE CONSUMER'S PERSONAL  
13 INFORMATION WAS COLLECTED;

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

16 (4) THE BUSINESS PURPOSES FOR THIRD-PARTY DISCLOSURE.

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

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

24 (2) THE INFORMATION MAY BE PROVIDED BY:

25 (I) UNITED STATES MAIL; OR

26 (II) ELECTRONIC DELIVERY THAT IS PORTABLE AND, TO THE  
27 EXTENT TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE, IN A READILY USEABLE FORMAT THAT ALLOWS  
28 THE CONSUMER TO TRANSMIT THIS INFORMATION TO ANOTHER ENTITY WITHOUT  
29 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 TWICE IN A 12-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 COURSE  
20 OF BUSINESS IS NOT MAINTAINED IN A MANNER THAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED  
21 PERSONAL INFORMATION; OR

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

24 14-4204.

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

29 (2) (I) IF A BUSINESS MAINTAINS AN INTERNET WEBSITE IN  
30 CONNECTION WITH THE BUSINESS, THE BUSINESS SHALL MAINTAIN A WEBSITE PAGE  
31 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 WITH**  
4 **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 THE**  
20 **BUSINESS 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;**  
26 **AND**

27                   **(V) THE CONSUMER'S RIGHT TO REQUEST:**

28                           **1. A COPY OF THE CONSUMER'S PERSONAL**  
29 **INFORMATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 14-4203 OF THIS SUBTITLE;**

30                           **2. THE DELETION OF THE CONSUMER'S PERSONAL**  
31 **INFORMATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 14-4205 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

1                   **3. TO OPT OUT OF THIRD-PARTY DISCLOSURE IN**  
2 **ACCORDANCE 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.**

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

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

30                   **(D) A BUSINESS OR A SERVICE PROVIDER IS NOT REQUIRED TO COMPLY**  
31 **WITH A CONSUMER'S REQUEST TO DELETE THE CONSUMER'S PERSONAL**  
32 **INFORMATION IF IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE BUSINESS OR SERVICE PROVIDER TO**  
33 **MAINTAIN THE PERSONAL INFORMATION IN ORDER TO:**



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

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

9           **(3) IDENTIFY OR REPAIR ERRORS THAT IMPAIR EXISTING INTENDED**  
10 **FUNCTIONALITY.**

11 **14-4206.**

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

14           **(2) THIS RIGHT MAY BE REFERRED TO AS THE "RIGHT TO OPT OUT OF**  
15 **THIRD-PARTY DISCLOSURE".**

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

20           **(C) A BUSINESS THAT HAS RECEIVED DIRECTION FROM A CONSUMER NOT**  
21 **TO DISCLOSE THE CONSUMER'S PERSONAL INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES MAY**  
22 **NOT:**

23           **(1) DISCLOSE THE PERSONAL INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES**  
24 **UNLESS THE CONSUMER LATER PROVIDES EXPRESS AUTHORIZATION FOR THAT**  
25 **DISCLOSURE; OR**

26           **(2) REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO DISCLOSE THE PERSONAL**  
27 **INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES FOR AT LEAST 12 MONTHS FROM THE DATE ON**  
28 **WHICH THE BUSINESS RECEIVED THE DIRECTION FROM THE CONSUMER.**

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

1           **(E) A CONSUMER MAY AUTHORIZE ANOTHER PERSON TO OPT OUT OF THE**  
2 **SALE OR DISCLOSURE OF THE CONSUMER'S PERSONAL INFORMATION ON THE**  
3 **CONSUMER'S BEHALF, AND A BUSINESS SHALL COMPLY WITH AN OPT-OUT REQUEST**  
4 **RECEIVED FROM A PERSON AUTHORIZED BY THE CONSUMER TO ACT ON THE**  
5 **CONSUMER'S BEHALF, IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE**  
6 **ATTORNEY GENERAL.**

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

10           **(G) A BUSINESS MAY NOT REQUIRE A CONSUMER TO CREATE AN ACCOUNT**  
11 **IN ORDER TO EXERCISE THE RIGHT TO OPT OUT OF THIRD-PARTY DISCLOSURE.**

12 **14-4207.**

13           **(A) A BUSINESS MAY NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST A CONSUMER BASED ON**  
14 **THE CONSUMER'S DECISION TO EXERCISE RIGHTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

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

16                   **(1) DENYING GOODS OR SERVICES TO THE CONSUMER;**

17                   **(2) CHARGING DIFFERENT PRICES OR RATES FOR GOODS OR**  
18 **SERVICES, INCLUDING THROUGH THE USE OF DISCOUNTS OR OTHER BENEFITS OR**  
19 **PENALTIES;**

20                   **(3) PROVIDING A DIFFERENT LEVEL OR QUALITY OF GOODS OR**  
21 **SERVICES TO THE CONSUMER; OR**

22                   **(4) SUGGESTING THAT THE CONSUMER WILL RECEIVE A DIFFERENT**  
23 **PRICE OR RATE FOR GOODS OR SERVICES OR A DIFFERENT LEVEL OR QUALITY OF**  
24 **GOODS OR SERVICES.**

25 **14-4208.**

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

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

29                   **(2) COMPLY WITH A CIVIL, CRIMINAL, OR REGULATORY INQUIRY,**

1 INVESTIGATION, SUBPOENA, OR SUMMONS BY A FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL  
2 AUTHORITY;

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

7           **(4) EXERCISE LEGAL RIGHTS OR PRIVILEGES;**

8           **(5) COLLECT, USE, RETAIN, SELL, OR DISCLOSE CONSUMER**  
9 **INFORMATION THAT IS DE-IDENTIFIED OR CONSUMER INFORMATION IN THE**  
10 **AGGREGATE; OR**

11           **(6) COLLECT OR SELL A CONSUMER'S PERSONAL INFORMATION IF**  
12 **EVERY ASPECT OF THAT COMMERCIAL CONDUCT TAKES PLACE WHOLLY OUT OF THE**  
13 **STATE, PROVIDED THAT IF THE BUSINESS COLLECTED THE INFORMATION WHILE**  
14 **THE CONSUMER WAS OUTSIDE THE STATE:**

15                   **(I) NO PART OF THE SALE OF THE CONSUMER'S PERSONAL**  
16 **INFORMATION OCCURRED IN THE STATE; AND**

17                   **(II) NO PERSONAL INFORMATION COLLECTED WHILE THE**  
18 **CONSUMER WAS IN THE STATE IS SOLD.**

19           **(B) THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT APPLY TO:**

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

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

31                   **(3) THE SALE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION TO OR FROM A CONSUMER**  
32 **REPORTING AGENCY IF THAT INFORMATION IS TO BE REPORTED IN OR USED TO**  
33 **GENERATE A "CONSUMER REPORT" AS DEFINED BY 15 U.S.C. § 1681A AND USE OF**

1 THAT INFORMATION IS LIMITED BY THE FEDERAL FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT;

2 (4) PERSONAL INFORMATION COLLECTED, PROCESSED, SOLD, OR  
3 DISCLOSED UNDER THE FEDERAL GRAMM-LEACH-BLILEY ACT AND  
4 IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; OR

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

7 14-4209.

8 RESEARCH WITH PERSONAL INFORMATION THAT MAY HAVE BEEN  
9 COLLECTED FROM A CONSUMER IN THE COURSE OF THE CONSUMER'S  
10 INTERACTIONS WITH A BUSINESS'S SERVICE OR DEVICE FOR OTHER PURPOSES  
11 SHALL BE:

12 (1) USED SOLELY FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES THAT ARE COMPATIBLE  
13 WITH THE CONTEXT IN WHICH THE PERSONAL INFORMATION WAS COLLECTED;

14 (2) RESTRICTED FROM USE FOR ANY COMMERCIAL PURPOSE;

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

19 (4) SUBJECT TO TECHNICAL SAFEGUARDS THAT PROHIBIT  
20 RE-IDENTIFICATION OF THE CONSUMER TO WHOM THE INFORMATION MAY  
21 PERTAIN;

22 (5) SUBJECT TO BUSINESS PROCESSES THAT SPECIFICALLY  
23 PROHIBIT RE-IDENTIFICATION OF THE INFORMATION;

24 (6) SUBJECT TO BUSINESS PROCESSES TO PREVENT INADVERTENT  
25 RELEASE OF DE-IDENTIFIED INFORMATION;

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

27 (8) SUBJECT TO THE ADDITIONAL SECURITY CONTROLS OF THE  
28 BUSINESS THAT LIMIT ACCESS TO THE RESEARCH DATA TO ONLY THOSE  
29 INDIVIDUALS IN A BUSINESS AS ARE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE RESEARCH  
30 PURPOSE.

1 14-4210.

2 (A) (1) A CONSUMER WHOSE NONENCRYPTED DATA OR NONREDACTED  
3 PERSONAL INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO AN UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS AND  
4 EXFILTRATION, THEFT, OR DISCLOSURE AS A RESULT OF A BUSINESS'S VIOLATION  
5 OF THE DUTY TO IMPLEMENT AND MAINTAIN REASONABLE SECURITY PROCEDURES  
6 AND PRACTICES APPROPRIATE TO THE NATURE OF THE INFORMATION TO PROTECT  
7 THE PERSONAL INFORMATION MAY INSTITUTE AN ACTION FOR:

8 (I) DAMAGES IN AN AMOUNT OF AT LEAST \$100 BUT NOT  
9 EXCEEDING \$750 FOR EACH CONSUMER PER INCIDENT OR ACTUAL DAMAGES,  
10 WHICHEVER IS GREATER;

11 (II) INJUNCTIVE OR DECLARATORY RELIEF; AND

12 (III) ANY OTHER RELIEF THE COURT DETERMINES PROPER.

13 (2) IN ASSESSING THE AMOUNT OF STATUTORY DAMAGES, A COURT  
14 SHALL CONSIDER RELEVANT CIRCUMSTANCES PRESENTED BY ANY OF THE PARTIES  
15 TO THE CASE, INCLUDING:

16 (I) THE NATURE AND SERIOUSNESS OF THE MISCONDUCT;

17 (II) THE NUMBER OF VIOLATIONS;

18 (III) THE PERSISTENCE OF MISCONDUCT;

19 (IV) THE LENGTH OF TIME THE MISCONDUCT OCCURRED;

20 (V) THE WILLFULNESS OF THE DEFENDANT'S MISCONDUCT;

21 AND

22 (VI) THE DEFENDANT'S ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND NET WORTH.

23 (B) (1) AN ACTION UNDER THIS SECTION MAY BE BROUGHT BY A  
24 CONSUMER IF, BEFORE INITIATING ANY ACTION AGAINST A BUSINESS FOR  
25 STATUTORY DAMAGES ON AN INDIVIDUAL OR CLASS-WIDE BASIS, THE CONSUMER  
26 PROVIDES A BUSINESS 30 DAYS' WRITTEN NOTICE IDENTIFYING THE SPECIFIC  
27 PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE THE CONSUMER ALLEGES HAVE BEEN OR ARE BEING  
28 VIOLATED.

29 (2) IN THE EVENT A CURE IS POSSIBLE, IF WITHIN THE 30 DAYS THE  
30 BUSINESS ACTUALLY CURES THE NOTICED VIOLATION AND PROVIDES THE

1 CONSUMER AN EXPRESS WRITTEN STATEMENT THAT THE VIOLATIONS HAVE BEEN  
2 CURED AND THAT NO FURTHER VIOLATIONS SHALL OCCUR, NO ACTION FOR  
3 INDIVIDUAL STATUTORY DAMAGES OR CLASS-WIDE STATUTORY DAMAGES MAY BE  
4 INITIATED AGAINST THE BUSINESS.

5 (3) NOTICE IS NOT REQUIRED BEFORE AN INDIVIDUAL CONSUMER  
6 INITIATES AN ACTION SOLELY FOR ACTUAL PECUNIARY DAMAGES SUFFERED AS A  
7 RESULT OF THE ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

8 (4) IF A BUSINESS CONTINUES TO VIOLATE THIS SUBTITLE IN BREACH  
9 OF THE EXPRESS WRITTEN STATEMENT PROVIDED TO THE CUSTOMER UNDER THIS  
10 SECTION, THE CONSUMER MAY INITIATE AN ACTION AGAINST THE BUSINESS TO  
11 ENFORCE THE WRITTEN STATEMENT AND MAY PURSUE STATUTORY DAMAGES FOR  
12 EACH BREACH OF THE EXPRESS WRITTEN STATEMENT, AS WELL AS ANY OTHER  
13 VIOLATION OF THE TITLE THAT POSTDATES THE WRITTEN STATEMENT.

14 (C) (1) THE CAUSE OF ACTION ESTABLISHED BY THIS SECTION APPLIES  
15 ONLY TO VIOLATIONS AS DEFINED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION AND MAY  
16 NOT BE BASED ON VIOLATIONS OF ANY OTHER SECTION OF THIS SUBTITLE.

17 (2) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THIS  
18 SUBTITLE MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR A PRIVATE RIGHT  
19 OF ACTION UNDER ANY OTHER LAW.

20 (3) THIS SUBSECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO RELIEVE ANY  
21 PARTY FROM ANY DUTIES OR OBLIGATIONS IMPOSED UNDER STATE LAW OR THE  
22 UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION.

23 14-4211.

24 (A) A BUSINESS OR THIRD PARTY MAY SEEK THE OPINION OF THE  
25 ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR GUIDANCE ON HOW TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF  
26 THIS SUBTITLE.

27 (B) A BUSINESS IS IN VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE IF THE BUSINESS FAILS  
28 TO CURE ANY ALLEGED VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER BEING  
29 NOTIFIED OF ALLEGED NONCOMPLIANCE.

30 (C) (1) A PERSON THAT VIOLATES THIS SUBTITLE IS:

31 (I) SUBJECT TO AN INJUNCTION; AND

32 (II) LIABLE FOR A CIVIL PENALTY IN A CIVIL ACTION BROUGHT

1 BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

2 (2) THE CIVIL PENALTIES PROVIDED FOR IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE  
3 EXCLUSIVELY ASSESSED AND RECOVERED IN A CIVIL ACTION BROUGHT IN THE  
4 NAME OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

5 (D) A PERSON THAT INTENTIONALLY VIOLATES THIS SUBTITLE IS SUBJECT  
6 TO A CIVIL PENALTY NOT EXCEEDING \$7,500 FOR EACH VIOLATION.

7 (E) (1) ANY CIVIL PENALTY ASSESSED FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS  
8 SUBTITLE AND THE PROCEEDS OF ANY SETTLEMENT OF AN ACTION BROUGHT IN  
9 ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION SHALL BE ALLOCATED AS FOLLOWS:

10 (I) 20% TO THE CONSUMER PRIVACY FUND;

11 (II) 40% TO THE JURISDICTION ON WHOSE BEHALF THE ACTION  
12 LEADING TO THE CIVIL PENALTY WAS BROUGHT; AND

13 (III) 40% TO THE BLUEPRINT FOR MARYLAND'S FUTURE FUND.

14 (2) THE STATE TREASURER MAY ADJUST AS NECESSARY THE  
15 PERCENTAGES LISTED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO ENSURE THAT  
16 ANY CIVIL PENALTIES ASSESSED FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE FULLY OFFSET  
17 ANY COSTS INCURRED BY THE STATE COURTS AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IN  
18 CONNECTION WITH THIS SUBTITLE, INCLUDING A SUFFICIENT AMOUNT TO COVER  
19 ANY DEFICIT FROM A PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR.

20 14-4212.

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

23 (1) IDENTIFY CATEGORIES OF PERSONAL INFORMATION IN ADDITION  
24 TO THOSE UNDER § 14-4208(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE IN ORDER TO ADDRESS CHANGES  
25 IN TECHNOLOGY, DATA COLLECTION PRACTICES, OBSTACLES TO IMPLEMENTATION,  
26 AND PRIVACY CONCERNS;

27 (2) UPDATE AS NEEDED THE DEFINITION OF "UNIQUE IDENTIFIER"  
28 TO ADDRESS CHANGES IN TECHNOLOGY, DATA COLLECTION, OBSTACLES TO  
29 IMPLEMENTATION, AND PRIVACY CONCERNS;

30 (3) ESTABLISH ANY EXCEPTIONS NECESSARY TO COMPLY WITH  
31 STATE OR FEDERAL LAW, INCLUDING EXCEPTIONS RELATING TO TRADE SECRETS

1 AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS;

2 (4) ADOPT STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES:

3 (I) TO FACILITATE AND GOVERN THE SUBMISSION OF  
4 VERIFIABLE CONSUMER REQUESTS UNDER §§ 14-4203 THROUGH 14-4206 OF THIS  
5 SUBTITLE;

6 (II) TO GOVERN RESPONSES BY BUSINESSES AND SERVICE  
7 PROVIDERS TO VERIFIABLE CONSUMER REQUESTS UNDER §§ 14-4203 THROUGH  
8 14-4206 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

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

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

16 (6) ENSURE THAT THE NOTICES AND INFORMATION THAT  
17 BUSINESSES ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE ARE PROVIDED IN  
18 A MANNER THAT MAY BE EASILY UNDERSTOOD BY THE AVERAGE CONSUMER, ARE  
19 ACCESSIBLE TO CONSUMERS WITH DISABILITIES, AND ARE AVAILABLE IN THE  
20 LANGUAGE PRIMARILY USED TO INTERACT WITH THE CONSUMER, INCLUDING BY  
21 ADOPTING REGULATIONS, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES REGARDING FINANCIAL  
22 INCENTIVE OFFERINGS; AND

23 (7) FURTHER THE PURPOSES OF §§ 14-4203 THROUGH 14-4206 OF  
24 THIS SUBTITLE, WITH THE GOAL OF MINIMIZING THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN ON  
25 CONSUMERS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY, SECURITY  
26 CONCERNS, AND THE BURDEN ON THE BUSINESS, TO GOVERN A DETERMINATION BY  
27 A BUSINESS THAT A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION RECEIVED BY A CONSUMER IS A  
28 VERIFIABLE CONSUMER REQUEST, INCLUDING TREATING A REQUEST SUBMITTED  
29 THROUGH A PASSWORD-PROTECTED ACCOUNT MAINTAINED BY THE CONSUMER  
30 WITH THE BUSINESS WHILE THE CONSUMER IS LOGGED INTO THE ACCOUNT AS A  
31 VERIFIABLE CONSUMER REQUEST AND PROVIDING A MECHANISM FOR A CONSUMER  
32 WHO DOES NOT MAINTAIN AN ACCOUNT WITH THE BUSINESS TO REQUEST  
33 INFORMATION THROUGH THE BUSINESS'S AUTHENTICATION OF THE CONSUMER'S  
34 IDENTITY.

35 14-4213.



1           **(A) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THIS SUBTITLE SHALL**  
2 **BE LIBERALLY CONSTRUED TO EFFECTUATE ITS PURPOSE AND IS INTENDED TO**  
3 **SUPPLEMENT FEDERAL AND STATE LAW.**

4           **(B) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO PREEMPT OR CONFLICT**  
5 **WITH ANY FEDERAL LAW.**

6 **14-4214.**

7           **IF A SERIES OF STEPS OR TRANSACTIONS WERE COMPONENT PARTS OF A**  
8 **SINGLE TRANSACTION AND TAKEN WITH THE INTENT OF AVOIDING THE**  
9 **REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBTITLE, A COURT SHALL DISREGARD THE**  
10 **INTERMEDIATE STEPS OR TRANSACTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF CARRYING OUT THIS**  
11 **SUBTITLE.**

12 **14-4215.**

13           **A PROVISION OF A CONTRACT OR AN AGREEMENT OF ANY KIND THAT**  
14 **PURPORTS TO WAIVE OR LIMIT IN ANY WAY THE RIGHTS OF A CONSUMER UNDER**  
15 **THIS SUBTITLE, INCLUDING A RIGHT TO A REMEDY OR MEANS OF ENFORCEMENT,**  
16 **SHALL BE CONSIDERED CONTRARY TO PUBLIC POLICY AND SHALL BE VOID AND**  
17 **UNENFORCEABLE.**

18 **14-4216.**

19           **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “FUND” MEANS THE CONSUMER PRIVACY FUND.**

20           **(B) THERE IS A CONSUMER PRIVACY FUND.**

21           **(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO OFFSET ANY COSTS INCURRED BY**  
22 **THE STATE COURTS IN CONNECTION WITH ACTIONS BROUGHT TO ENFORCE THIS**  
23 **SUBTITLE AND ANY COSTS INCURRED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IN CARRYING**  
24 **OUT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL’S DUTIES UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

25           **(D) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.**

26           **(E) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT**  
27 **SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.**

28           **(2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,**  
29 **AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.**

1           **(F) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:**

2                   **(1) REVENUE DISTRIBUTED TO THE FUND UNDER § 14-4211 OF THIS**  
3 **SUBTITLE;**

4                   **(2) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;**  
5 **AND**

6                   **(3) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR**  
7 **THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.**

8           **(G) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR OFFSETTING ANY COSTS INCURRED**  
9 **BY THE STATE COURTS IN CONNECTION WITH ACTIONS BROUGHT TO ENFORCE THIS**  
10 **SUBTITLE AND ANY COSTS INCURRED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IN CARRYING**  
11 **OUT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DUTIES UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

12           **(H) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND**  
13 **IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.**

14                   **(2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO**  
15 **THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE.**

16           **(I) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE**  
17 **WITH THE STATE BUDGET.**

18           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
19 October 1, 2020.