



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**BILL:** House Bill 1065 - Public Service Companies and Contractors - Customer Protection - Personal Information

**SPONSOR:** Delegate Charkoudian, *et al.*

**HEARING DATE:** March 5, 2020

**COMMITTEE:** Economic Matters

**CONTACT:** Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

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**POSITION:** SUPPORT

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The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1065 - Public Service Companies and Contractors - Customer Protection - Personal Information**, which generally prohibits a public service company and its contractors from sharing, disclosing, or otherwise making accessible a customer's personal information to a third party; they are likewise prohibited from selling a customer's personal information. Each public service company and contractor must use reasonable security procedures and practices to protect a customer's personal information and must restrict the collection of personal information to the least amount necessary for the provision of services and effective operation and administration. A Social Security number may not be required for service, but may be allowed as a valid form of identification. The bill does not prohibit the use of a customer's service usage in the aggregate for analysis, reporting, and program management, if all other personal information is not used.

With cybercrime on the rise, data trading (which includes the selling of personal information) produces revenues of over \$160 billion worldwide.<sup>1</sup> Juniper Research's Cybercrime & the Internet of Threats 2018 report estimates cybercriminals will steal 33 billion records annually by 2023. Given that, we must take the necessary steps to safeguard individual's personal information.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1065** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.

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<sup>1</sup> McGuire, Michael. Into the Web of Profit, Bromium Inc., April 2018, pg. 23, Accessed on Feb. 11, 2020, at [https://www.bromium.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Into-the-Web-of-Profit\\_Bromium.pdf](https://www.bromium.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Into-the-Web-of-Profit_Bromium.pdf)