

Senate Bill 230

By: Senators Hamrick of the 30th, Grant of the 25th and Mullis of the 53rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 10 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to selling  
2 and other trade practices, so as to provide definitions; to require investigative consumer  
3 reporting agencies to give notice to consumers of certain security breaches; to provide for  
4 related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 1 of Title 10 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to selling and other  
9 trade practices, is amended by adding a new Article 34 to read as follows:

10 "Article 34

11 10-1-910.

12 As used in this article, the term:

13 (1) 'Agency' or 'investigative consumer reporting agency' means any person or entity  
14 who, for monetary fees or dues, engages in whole or in part in the practice of collecting,  
15 assembling, evaluating, compiling, reporting, transmitting, transferring, or  
16 communicating information concerning consumers for the purposes of furnishing  
17 investigative consumer reports to third parties, but does not include any governmental  
18 agency whose records are maintained primarily for traffic safety, law enforcement, or  
19 licensing purposes, or any licensed insurance agent or insurance broker.

20 (2) 'Breach of the security of the system' means unauthorized acquisition of a consumer's  
21 file or computerized data that compromises the security, confidentiality, or integrity of  
22 personal information of such consumer maintained by the agency. Good faith acquisition  
23 of personal information by an employee or agent of the agency for the purposes of the  
24 agency is not a breach of the security of the system, provided that the personal  
25 information is not used or subject to further unauthorized disclosure.

1       (3) 'Consumer' means a natural individual who has made application to a person for  
2       employment purposes; for insurance for personal, family, or household purposes; for the  
3       rental or purchase of a dwelling; or for other such purposes.

4       (4) 'File,' when used in connection with information on any consumer, means all of the  
5       information on that consumer recorded and retained by an investigative consumer  
6       reporting agency regardless of how the information is stored.

7       (5) 'Notice' means:

8           (A) Written notice;

9           (B) Electronic notice, if the notice provided is consistent with the provisions regarding  
10       electronic records and signatures set forth in Section 7001 of Title 15 of the United  
11       States Code; or

12       (C) Substitute notice, if the agency demonstrates that the cost of providing notice  
13       would exceed \$250,000.00, or that the affected class of persons to be notified exceeds  
14       500,000, or the agency does not have sufficient contact information to provide written  
15       or electronic notice to such persons. Substitute notice shall consist of all of the  
16       following:

17           (i) E-mail notice when the agency has an e-mail address for the persons to be  
18       notified;

19           (ii) Conspicuous posting of the notice on the agency's website page, if the agency  
20       maintains one; and

21           (iii) Notification to major state-wide media.

22       Notwithstanding any provision of this paragraph to the contrary, an agency that maintains  
23       its own notification procedures as part of an information security policy for the treatment  
24       of personal information and is otherwise consistent with the timing requirements of this  
25       article shall be deemed to be in compliance with the notification requirements of this  
26       article if it notifies the persons who are the subjects of the notice in accordance with its  
27       policies in the event of a breach of security of the system.

28       (6) 'Person' means any individual, partnership, corporation, limited liability company,  
29       trust, estate, cooperative, association, or other entity. The term 'person' as used in this  
30       article shall not be construed to require duplicative reporting by any individual,  
31       corporation, trust, estate, cooperative, association, or other entity involved in the same  
32       transaction.

33       (7) 'Personal information' means an individual's first name or first initial and last name  
34       in combination with any one or more of the following data elements, when either the  
35       name or the data elements are not encrypted:

36           (A) Social security number;

- (B) Driver's license number of an individual or number of an individual's identification card issued pursuant to Article 5 of Chapter 5 of Title 40; or
- (C) Account number or credit or debit card number, in combination with any required security code, access code, or password that would permit access to an individual's financial account.

The term 'personal information' does not include publicly available information that is lawfully made available to the general public from federal, state, or local government records.

10-1-911.

(a) Any agency that owns or licenses computerized data that includes personal information shall disclose any breach of the security of the system following discovery or notification of the breach in the security of the data to any resident of this state whose unencrypted personal information or file was, or is reasonably believed to have been, acquired by an unauthorized person. The disclosure shall be made in the most expedient time possible and without unreasonable delay, consistent with the legitimate needs of law enforcement, as provided in subsection (c), or any measures necessary to determine the scope of the breach and restore the reasonable integrity of the data system.

(b) Any agency that maintains computerized data that includes personal information that the agency does not own shall notify the owner or licensee of the information of any breach of the security of the data immediately following discovery, if the personal information was, or is reasonably believed to have been, acquired by an unauthorized person.

(c) The notification required by this Code section may be delayed if a law enforcement agency determines that the notification will impede a criminal investigation. The notification required by this Code section shall be made after the law enforcement agency determines that it will not compromise the investigation."

## SECTION 2.

27 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
28 without such approval.

### **SECTION 3.**

30 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.