

DATA PROTECTION

SECURITY BREACH PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT OF 2019 USA - WASHINGTON D.C.

AS A CONSEQUENCE OF A MAJOR DATA BREACH EVENT THAT AFFECTED THE RESIDENTS IN WASHINGTON D.C. AREA, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, KARL A. RACINE, APPROVED THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW REGULATION FOR HANDLING WITH DATA BREACHES THAT INVOLVES PERSONAL INFORMATION OF DISTRICT RESIDENTS, BASED ON THE EUROPEAN GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR).

Information: On March 21th, 2019, the Attorney General Karl A. Racine, Washington D.C., announced the introduction of the "Security Breach Protection Amendment Act of 2019". Please find the full bill [here](#).

With this new regulation, the US capital region is on track to implement a new rule akin to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), in force under the European Union territory.

This new regulation has been introduced in response to a major data breach event that puts millions of District residents at risk of identity theft and other types of fraud. The law seeks to expand the protection for the data subjects who lives in the Washington D.C. area and includes new compliance requirements for entities handling data of such residents.

The Security Breach Protection Amendment Act of 2019 seeks to:

- Expand the definition of personal information, including: social security number, individual taxpayer number, passport number, driver's license number, military identification number, account number, credit card or debit card, medical information, genetic information, health insurance information and biometric data of individual generated by automatic measures of an individual biological characteristics such fingerprints, voice print, genetic print, retina or iris image;
- Holding companies accountable for safeguarding a broader range of privacy information;
- Creating security requirements for companies that handles with personal information: the new regulation requires companies to implement and maintain security safeguards against unauthorized access or use of data;
- Requiring companies to inform consumers of their rights when a data breach occurs: in case of a data breach event, companies shall inform the consumers about their rights under the federal law to obtain the security freeze and information how to obtain such freeze.

The Office of the Attorney General would also become the go-to authority for reporting a data breach event that involves personal information of the District residents.

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