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**HOUSE BILL NO. 1277**

Offered January 10, 2018

Prefiled January 10, 2018

*A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-3800, 2.2-3801, and 2.2-3803 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act; sharing and dissemination of data.*

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 Patron—Garrett
 

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 Referred to Committee on General Laws
 

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**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 2.2-3800, 2.2-3801, and 2.2-3803 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 2.2-3800. Short title; findings; principles of information practice.**

A. This chapter may be cited as the "Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act."

B. The General Assembly finds that:

1. An individual's privacy is directly affected by the extensive collection, maintenance, use and dissemination of personal information;

2. The increasing use of computers and sophisticated information technology has greatly magnified the harm that can occur from these practices;

3. An individual's opportunities to secure employment, insurance, credit, and his right to due process, and other legal protections are endangered by the misuse of certain of these personal information systems; and

4. In order to preserve the rights guaranteed a citizen in a free society, legislation is necessary to establish procedures to govern information systems containing records on individuals.

C. Recordkeeping agencies of the Commonwealth and political subdivisions shall adhere to the following principles of information practice to ensure safeguards for personal privacy:

1. There shall be no personal information system whose existence is secret.

2. Information shall not be collected unless the need for it has been clearly established in advance.

3. Information shall be appropriate and relevant to the purpose for which it has been collected.

4. Information shall not be obtained by fraudulent or unfair means.

5. Information shall not be used unless it is accurate and current.

6. There shall be a prescribed procedure for an individual to learn the purpose for which information has been recorded and particulars about its use and dissemination.

7. There shall be a clearly prescribed and uncomplicated procedure for an individual to correct, erase or amend inaccurate, obsolete or irrelevant information.

8. Any agency holding personal information shall assure its reliability and take precautions to prevent its misuse.

9. There shall be a clearly prescribed procedure to prevent personal information collected for one purpose from being used *or disseminated* for another purpose *unless such use or dissemination is authorized or required by law*.

10. The Commonwealth or any agency or political subdivision thereof shall not collect personal information except as explicitly or implicitly authorized by law.

**§ 2.2-3801. Definitions.**

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Agency" means any agency, authority, board, department, division, commission, institution, bureau, or like governmental entity of the Commonwealth or of any unit of local government including counties, cities, towns, regional governments, and the departments thereof, and includes constitutional officers, except as otherwise expressly provided by law. "Agency" shall also include any entity, whether public or private, with which any of the foregoing has entered into a contractual relationship for the operation of a system of personal information to accomplish an agency function. Any such entity included in this definition by reason of a contractual relationship shall only be deemed an agency as relates to services performed pursuant to that contractual relationship, provided that if any such entity is a consumer reporting agency, it shall be deemed to have satisfied all of the requirements of this chapter if it fully complies with the requirements of the Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act as applicable to services performed pursuant to such contractual relationship.

"Data subject" means an individual about whom personal information is indexed or may be located under his name, personal number, or other identifiable particulars, in an information system.

"Disseminate" means to release, transfer, or otherwise communicate information orally, in writing, or

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59 by electronic means.

60 "Information system" means the total components and operations of a record-keeping process,  
61 including information collected or managed by means of computer networks and the Internet, whether  
62 automated or manual, containing personal information and the name, personal number, or other  
63 identifying particulars of a data subject.

64 "Personal information" means all information that (i) describes, locates or indexes anything about an  
65 individual including, but not limited to, his social security number, driver's license number,  
66 agency-issued identification number, student identification number, real or personal property holdings  
67 derived from tax returns, and his education, financial transactions, medical history, ancestry, religion,  
68 political ideology, criminal or employment record, or (ii) affords a basis for inferring personal  
69 characteristics, such as finger and voice prints, photographs, or things done by or to such individual; and  
70 the record of his presence, registration, or membership in an organization or activity, or admission to an  
71 institution. "Personal information" shall not include routine information maintained for the purpose of  
72 internal office administration whose use could not be such as to affect adversely any data subject nor  
73 does the term include real estate assessment information.

74 "Proper purpose" includes the sharing or dissemination of data or information among and between  
75 agencies in order to (i) streamline administrative processes to improve the efficiency and efficacy of  
76 services, access to services, eligibility determinations for services, and service delivery; (ii) reduce  
77 paperwork and administrative burdens on applicants for and recipients of public services; (iii) improve  
78 the efficiency and efficacy of the management of public programs; (iv) prevent fraud and improve  
79 auditing capabilities; (v) conduct outcomes-related research; (vi) develop quantifiable data to aid in  
80 policy development and decision making to promote the most efficient and effective use of resources;  
81 and (vii) perform data analytics regarding any of the purposes set forth in this definition.

82 "Purge" means to obliterate information completely from the transient, permanent, or archival records  
83 of an agency.

84 **§ 2.2-3803. Administration of systems including personal information; Internet privacy policy;**  
85 **exceptions.**

86 A. Any agency maintaining an information system that includes personal information shall:

87 1. Collect, maintain, use, and disseminate only that personal information permitted or required by law  
88 to be so collected, maintained, used, or disseminated, or necessary to accomplish a proper purpose of the  
89 agency;

90 2. Collect information to the greatest extent feasible from the data subject directly, *or through the*  
91 *sharing of data with other agencies in order to accomplish a proper purpose of the agency;*

92 3. Establish categories for maintaining personal information to operate in conjunction with  
93 confidentiality requirements and access controls;

94 4. Maintain information in the system with accuracy, completeness, timeliness, and pertinence as  
95 necessary to ensure fairness in determinations relating to a data subject;

96 5. Make no dissemination to another system without (i) specifying requirements for security and  
97 usage including limitations on access thereto, and (ii) receiving reasonable assurances that those  
98 requirements and limitations will be observed. This subdivision shall not apply, however, to a  
99 dissemination made by an agency to an agency in another state, district or territory of the United States  
100 where the personal information is requested by the agency of such other state, district or territory in  
101 connection with the application of the data subject therein for a service, privilege or right under the laws  
102 thereof, nor shall this apply to information transmitted to family advocacy representatives of the United  
103 States Armed Forces in accordance with subsection N of § 63.2-1503;

104 6. Maintain a list of all persons or organizations having regular access to personal information in the  
105 information system;

106 7. Maintain for a period of three years or until such time as the personal information is purged,  
107 whichever is shorter, a complete and accurate record, including identity and purpose, of every access to  
108 any personal information in a system, including the identity of any persons or organizations not having  
109 regular access authority but excluding access by the personnel of the agency wherein data is put to  
110 service for the purpose for which it is obtained;

111 8. Take affirmative action to establish rules of conduct and inform each person involved in the  
112 design, development, operation, or maintenance of the system, or the collection or use of any personal  
113 information contained therein, about all the requirements of this chapter, the rules and procedures,  
114 including penalties for noncompliance, of the agency designed to assure compliance with such  
115 requirements;

116 9. Establish appropriate safeguards to secure the system from any reasonably foreseeable threat to its  
117 security; and

118 10. Collect no personal information concerning the political or religious beliefs, affiliations, and  
119 activities of data subjects that is maintained, used or disseminated in or by any information system  
120 operated by any agency unless authorized explicitly by statute or ordinance.

121 B. Every public body, as defined in § 2.2-3701, that has an Internet website associated with that  
122 public body shall develop an Internet privacy policy and an Internet privacy policy statement that  
123 explains the policy to the public. The policy shall be consistent with the requirements of this chapter.  
124 The statement shall be made available on the public body's website in a conspicuous manner. The  
125 Secretary of Technology or his designee shall provide guidelines for developing the policy and the  
126 statement, and each public body shall tailor the policy and the statement to reflect the information  
127 practices of the individual public body. At minimum, the policy and the statement shall address (i) what  
128 information, including personally identifiable information, will be collected, if any; (ii) whether any  
129 information will be automatically collected simply by accessing the website and, if so, what information;  
130 (iii) whether the website automatically places a computer file, commonly referred to as a "cookie," on  
131 the Internet user's computer and, if so, for what purpose; and (iv) how the collected information is being  
132 used or will be used.

133 C. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A, the Virginia Retirement System may disseminate  
134 information as to the retirement status or benefit eligibility of any employee covered by the Virginia  
135 Retirement System, the Judicial Retirement System, the State Police Officers' Retirement System, or the  
136 Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System, to the chief executive officer or personnel officers of the  
137 state or local agency by which he is employed.

138 D. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A, the Department of Social Services may  
139 disseminate client information to the Department of Taxation for the purposes of providing specified tax  
140 information as set forth in clause (ii) of subsection C of § 58.1-3.

141 E. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A, the State Council of Higher Education for  
142 Virginia may disseminate student information to agencies acting on behalf or in place of the U.S.  
143 government to gain access to data on wages earned outside the Commonwealth or through federal  
144 employment, for the purposes of complying with § 23.1-204.1.