MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION 2025

By: Senator(s) Williams To: Judiciary, Division A

SENATE BILL NO. 2500

AN ACT TO ENACT THE MISSISSIPPI CONSUMER DATA PROTECTION ACT; TO DEFINE TERMS; TO PROVIDE THE SCOPE OF PROTECTION AND EXEMPTIONS OF THIS ACT; TO PROVIDE THAT THIS ACT APPLIES TO CERTAIN PERSONS CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITHIN THE STATE; TO EXEMPT CERTAIN DATA FROM THIS ACT; TO PROVIDE THAT A CONSUMER MAY INVOKE THE CONSUMER RIGHTS AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO THIS ACT AT ANY TIME BY SUBMITTING A REQUEST TO A DATA CONTROLLER THROUGH A SPECIFIED PROCEDURE; TO REQUIRE A DATA CONTROLLER TO RESPOND TO A CONSUMER WITHOUT UNDUE DELAY; TO REQUIRE A DATA CONTROLLER TO ESTABLISH AN APPEAL PROCESS FOR A CONSUMER TO APPEAL THE DATA CONTROLLER'S REFUSAL TO TAKE ACTION ON A REQUEST WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME AFTER THE CONSUMER'S RECEIPT OF THE DECISION; TO REQUIRE A DATA CONTROLLER TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT REASONABLE ADMINISTRATIVE, TECHNICAL, AND PHYSICAL DATA SECURITY PRACTICES TO PROTECT THE CONFIDENTIALITY, INTEGRITY, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF PERSONAL DATA; TO REQUIRE THE DATA CONTROLLER TO PROVIDE CONSUMERS WITH A REASONABLY ACCESSIBLE, CLEAR, AND MEANINGFUL PRIVACY NOTICE; TO PROVIDE THAT IF A CONTROLLER SELLS A CONSUMER'S PERSONAL DATA TO THIRD PARTIES OR ENGAGES IN TARGETED ADVERTISING, THE DATA CONTROLLER MUST PROVIDE CLEAR AND CONSPICUOUS NOTICE TO A CONSUMER; TO REQUIRE DATA PROCESSORS TO ASSIST DATA CONTROLLERS IN DUTIES REQUIRED BY THIS ACT; TO PROVIDE THAT THE OBLIGATIONS IMPOSED ON A DATA CONTROLLER OR DATA PROCESSOR UNDER THIS ACT SHALL NOT RESTRICT A CONTROLLER'S OR PROCESSOR'S ABILITY TO COLLECT, USE, OR RETAIN CERTAIN DATA; TO PROVIDE THAT THE OBLIGATIONS IMPOSED ON A DATA CONTROLLER OR DATA PROCESSOR UNDER THIS ACT SHALL NOT APPLY WHERE COMPLIANCE BY THE DATA CONTROLLER OR DATA PROCESSOR WOULD VIOLATE AN EVIDENTIARY PRIVILEGE UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE; TO PROVIDE THAT THIS ACT SHALL NOT REQUIRE A DATA CONTROLLER, DATA PROCESSOR, THIRD PARTY, OR CONSUMER TO DISCLOSE TRADE SECRETS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL HAVE EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY TO ENFORCE THIS ACT; TO PROVIDE CIVIL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as "The Mississippi Consumer Data Protection Act."

SECTION 2. The words, terms and phrases as used in this act shall have the following meanings, unless the context requires otherwise:

(a) "Affiliate" means a legal entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with another legal entity or shares common branding with another legal entity. For the purposes of this definition, "control" or "controlled" means:

(i) Ownership of, or the power to vote, more than fifty percent (50%) of the outstanding shares of any class of voting security of a company;

(ii) Control in any manner over the election of a majority of the directors or of individuals exercising similar functions; and

(iii) The power to exercise controlling influence over the management of a company.

(b) "Aggregate data" means information that relates to a group or category of consumers, from which individual consumer identities have been removed, that is not linked or reasonably linkable to any consumer.

(c) "Authenticate" means verifying through reasonable means that a consumer, entitled to exercise his or her consumer

rights in Section 4 of this act, is the same consumer exercising such consumer rights with respect to the personal data at issue.

(d) "Biometric data" means data generated by automatic measurements of an individual's biological characteristics, such as a fingerprint, voiceprint, eye retinas, irises, or other unique biological patterns or characteristics that is used to identify a specific individual. "Biometric data" does not include a physical or digital photograph, a video or audio recording or data generated therefrom, or information collected, used, or stored for health care treatment, payment, or operations under HIPAA.

(e) "Child" means any natural person younger than thirteen (13) years of age.

(f) "Consumer" means a natural person who is a resident of the state acting only in an individual or household context and excluding a natural person acting in a commercial or employment context.

(g) "Controller" means a person who, alone or jointly with others, determines the purpose and means of processing personal data.

(h) "Covered entity" means the same as "covered entity" defined by HIPAA.

(i) "De-identified data" means data that cannot reasonably be linked to an identified or identifiable natural person.

(j) "Health care provider" means any of the following:

(i) A general hospital, ambulatory surgical or treatment center, skilled nursing center, or assisted living center licensed or certified by the state;

(ii) A psychiatric hospital licensed by the state;

(iii) A hospital operated by the state;

(iv) A hospital operated by the State Department of Health;

(v) A person licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy in the state;

(vi) A person licensed to furnish health care policies or plans in the state;

(vii) A person licensed to practice dentistry in the state; and

(viii) "Health care provider" does not include a continuing care retirement community or any nursing facility of a religious body which depends upon prayer alone for healing.

(k) "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act" or "HIPAA" means the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Public Law No. 104-191, including amendments thereto and regulations promulgated thereunder.

(l) "Health record" means any written, printed, or electronically recorded material maintained by a health care provider in the course of providing health services to an individual concerning the individual and the services provided,

including related health information provided in confidence to a health care provider.

(m) "Identified or identifiable natural person" means a person who can be readily identified, directly or indirectly.

(n) "Nonprofit organization" means any corporation organized under Chapter 11, Title 79, Mississippi Code of 1972, any organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(6), or 501(c)(12) of the Internal Revenue Code, any organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that is established to detect or prevent insurance-related crime or fraud, and any subsidiaries and affiliates of organized entities.

(o) "Personal data" means any information that is linked or reasonably linkable to an identified or identifiable natural person. "Personal data" does not include de-identified or aggregate data or publicly available information.

(p) (i) "Personal information" means an individual's first name or first initial and last name in combination with any one or more of the following data elements that relate to the individual if any of the data elements are not encrypted, redacted or otherwise altered by any method or technology in such a manner that the name or data elements are unreadable or are encrypted, redacted, or otherwise altered by any method or technology, but the keys to unencrypt, unredact or otherwise read the data elements have been obtained through the breach of security:

1. Social security number;

2. Driver's license number or other unique identification number created or collected by a government body;

3. Financial account number, credit card number or debit card number in combination with any required expiration date, security code, access code or password that would permit access to an individual's financial account;

4. Unique electronic identifier or routing code, in combination with any required security code, access code or password that would permit access to an individual's financial account; or

5. Unique biometric data, such as a fingerprint, retina or iris image, or other unique physical representation or digital representation of biometric data.

(ii) "Personal information" does not include information that is lawfully obtained from publicly available sources, or from federal, state or local government records lawfully made available to the general public.

(q) "Precise geolocation data" means information derived from technology, including, but not limited to, global positioning system level latitude and longitude coordinates or other mechanisms, that identifies the specific location of a natural person with precision and accuracy within a radius of one thousand seven hundred fifty (1,750) feet. "Precise geolocation data" does not include the content of communications, or any data

generated by or connected to utility metering infrastructure systems or equipment for use by a utility.

(r) "Process" or "processing" means any operation or set of operations performed, whether by manual or automated means, on personal data or on sets of personal data, such as the collection, use, storage, disclosure, analysis, deletion, or modification of personal data.

(s) "Processor" means a person who processes personal data on behalf of a controller.

(t) "Protected health information" means the same as protected health information established by HIPAA.

(u) "Pseudonymous data" means personal data that cannot be attributed to a specific natural person without the use of additional information, provided that such additional information is kept separately and is subject to appropriate technical and organizational measures to ensure that the personal data is not attributed to an identified or identifiable natural person.

(v) "Publicly available information" means information that is lawfully made available through federal, state, or local government records, or information that a business has reasonable basis to believe is lawfully made available to the general public through widely distributed media, by the consumer, or by a person to whom the consumer has disclosed the information, unless the consumer has restricted the information to a specific audience.

(w) "Sale of personal data" means the exchange of personal data for monetary consideration by the controller to a third party. "Sale of personal data" does not include:

(i) The disclosure of personal data to a processor that processes the personal data on behalf of the controller;

(ii) The disclosure of personal data to a third party for purposes of providing a product or service requested by the consumer or a parent of a child;

(iii) The disclosure or transfer of personal data to an affiliate of the controller;

(iv) The disclosure of information that the consumer intentionally made available to the general public via a channel of mass media and did not restrict to a specific audience;

(v) The disclosure or transfer of personal data when a consumer uses or directs a controller to intentionally disclose personal data or intentionally interact with one or more third parties; and

(vi) The disclosure or transfer of personal data to a third party as an asset that is part of a proposed or actual merger, acquisition, bankruptcy, or other transaction in which the third party assumes control of all or part of the controller's assets.

(x) "Sensitive data" means a category of personal data that includes the following:

(i) Racial or ethnic origin, religious beliefs, mental or physical health diagnosis, sexual orientation, or citizenship or immigration status, except to the extent such data is used in order to avoid discrimination on the basis of a protected class that would violate a federal or state anti-discrimination law;

(ii) Genetic or biometric data that is processed for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person;

(iii) The personal data collected from a known child; and

(iv) Precise geolocation data.

(y) "Targeted advertising" means displaying advertisements to a consumer where the advertisement is selected based on personal data obtained from that consumer's activities over time and across nonaffiliated websites or online applications to predict such consumer's preferences or interests. "Targeted advertising" does not include the following:

(i) Advertisements based on activities within a controller's own or affiliated websites or online applications;

(ii) Advertisements based on the context of a consumer's current search query, visit to a website, or online application;

(iii) Advertisements directed to a consumer in response to the consumer's request for information or feedback; and

(iv) Processing personal data solely for measuring or reporting advertising performance, reach, or frequency.

(z) "Third party" means a natural or legal person, public authority, agency, or body other than the consumer, controller, processor, or an affiliate of the processor or the controller.

(aa) "Trade secret" means information, including, but not limited to, a formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, or process that consists of the following:

(i) Information that derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use; and

(ii) Information that is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.

SECTION 3. (1) This act applies to a person conducting business in the state or producing products or services that are targeted to consumers who are residents of the state and that during a calendar year does either of the following:

(a) Controls or processes personal data of at least one hundred thousand (100,000) consumers; or

(b) Controls or processes personal data of at least twenty-five thousand (25,000) consumers and derives over fifty percent (50%) of gross revenue from the sale of personal data.

(2) This act shall not apply to:

(a) The state or any political subdivision of the state;

(b) Financial institutions, affiliates of financial institutions, or data subject to Title V of the federal Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999, 15 USC Section 6801 et seq.;

(c) Persons who are subject to and comply with regulations promulgated pursuant to Title II, subtitle F, of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996, Public Law No. 104-191, and Title XIII, subtitle D, of the federal Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009, 42 USC Sections 17921 through 17954;

(d) Nonprofit organizations; or

(e) Institutions of higher education.

(3) The following information and data are exempt from this act:

(a) Protected health information under HIPAA;

(b) Health records;

(c) Patient-identifying information for purposes of 42 USC Section 290dd-2;

(d) Identifiable private information for purposes of the Federal Policy For The Protection of Human Subjects under 45 C.F.R. Part 46;

(e) Identifiable private information that is otherwise information collected as part of human subjects research pursuant

to the good clinical practice guidelines issued by the International Council for Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use;

(f) The protection of human subjects under 21 C.F.R. Parts 6, 50, and 56;

(g) Personal data used or shared in research conducted in accordance with the requirements set forth in this act, or other research conducted in accordance with applicable law;

(h) Information and documents created for purposes of the federal Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986, 42 USC Section 11101 et seq.;

(i) Patient safety work product for purposes of the federal Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act, 42 USC Section 299b-21 et seq.;

(j) Information derived from any of the health care-related information listed in this subsection that is de-identified in accordance with the requirements for de-identification pursuant to HIPAA;

(k) Information originating from, and intermingled to be indistinguishable with, or information treated in the same manner as information exempt under this subsection that is maintained by a covered entity or business associate as defined by HIPAA or a program or a qualified service organization as defined by 42 USC Section 290dd-2;

(l) Information used only for public health activities and purposes as authorized by HIPAA;

(m) The collection, maintenance, disclosure, sale, communication, or use of any personal information bearing on a consumer's credit worthiness, credit standing, credit capacity, character, general reputation, personal characteristics, or mode of living by a consumer reporting agency or furnisher that provides information for use in a consumer report, and by a user of a consumer report, but only to the extent that such activity is regulated by and authorized under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 USC Section 1681 et seq.;

(n) Personal data collected, processed, sold, or disclosed in compliance with the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994, 18 USC Section 2721 et seq.;

(o) Personal data regulated by the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 USC Section 1232 et seq.;

(p) Personal data collected, processed, sold, or disclosed in compliance with the federal Farm Credit Act, 12 USC Section 2001 et seq.;

(q) Data processed or maintained as follows:

(i) In the course of an individual applying to, employed by, or acting as an agent or independent contractor of a controller, processor, or third party, to the extent that the data is collected and used within the context of that role;

(ii) As the emergency contact information of an individual under this act used for emergency contact purposes; and

(iii) That is necessary to retain to administer benefits for another individual relating to the individual under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph and used for the purposes of administering those benefits.

(r) Personal data used in accordance with the federal Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, 15 USC Sections 6501 through 6506, and its rules, regulations, and exceptions thereto.

SECTION 4. (1) A consumer may invoke the consumer rights authorized pursuant to this section at any time by submitting a request to the controller, through the means specified by the controller pursuant to Section 5(6) of this act, specifying the consumer rights the consumer wishes to invoke. A known child's parent or legal guardian may invoke such consumer rights on behalf of the known child regarding processing personal data belonging to the child. A controller shall comply with an authenticated consumer request to exercise all of the following:

(a) To confirm whether a controller is processing the consumer's personal data and to access such personal data;

(b) To delete personal data provided by the consumer;

(c) To obtain a copy of the consumer's personal data, except as to personal data that is defined as "personal information" pursuant to Section 2(p) of this act that is subject to security breach protection, that the consumer previously

provided to the controller in a portable format and, to the extent technically practicable, readily usable format that allows the consumer to transmit the data to another controller without hindrance, where the processing is carried out by automated means; and

(d) To opt out of the sale of personal data.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this act, a controller shall comply with a request by a consumer to exercise the consumer rights authorized pursuant to this section as follows:

(a) A controller shall respond to the consumer without undue delay but in all cases within ninety (90) days of receipt of a request submitted pursuant to the methods described in this section. The response period may be extended once by forty-five (45) additional days when reasonably necessary upon considering the complexity and number of the consumer's requests by informing the consumer of any such extension within the initial ninety-day response period, together with the reason for the extension;

(b) If a controller declines to take action regarding the consumer's request, the controller shall inform the consumer without undue delay of the justification for declining to take action, except in the case of a suspected fraudulent request, in which case the controller may state that the controller was unable to authenticate the request. The controller shall also provide instructions for appealing the decision pursuant to subsection (3) of this section;

(c) Information provided in response to a consumer request shall be provided by a controller free of charge, up to twice annually per consumer. If a request from a consumer is manifestly unfounded, excessive, repetitive, technically unfeasible, or the controller reasonably believes that the primary purpose of the request is not to exercise a consumer right, the controller may charge the consumer a reasonable fee to cover the administrative costs of complying with the request or decline to act on the request. The controller bears the burden of demonstrating the manifestly unfounded, excessive, repetitive, or technically unfeasible nature of the request; and

(d) If a controller is unable to authenticate a request using commercially reasonable efforts, the controller shall not be required to comply with a request to initiate an action under this section and may request that the consumer provide additional information reasonably necessary to authenticate the consumer and the consumer's request.

(3) A controller shall establish a process for a consumer to appeal the controller's refusal to take action on a request within a reasonable period of time after the consumer's receipt of the decision pursuant to this section. The appeal process shall be conspicuously available and similar to the process for submitting requests to initiate action pursuant to this section. Within sixty (60) days of receipt of an appeal, a controller shall inform the consumer in writing of any action taken or not taken in

response to the appeal, including a written explanation of the reasons for the decision. If the appeal is denied, the controller shall also provide the consumer with an online mechanism through which the consumer may contact the Attorney General to submit a complaint.

SECTION 5. (1) A controller shall adopt and implement reasonable administrative, technical, and physical data security practices to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and accessibility of personal data. Such data security practices shall be appropriate to the volume and nature of the personal data at issue.

(2) A controller shall not process sensitive data collected from a consumer for a nonexempt purpose without the consumer having been presented with clear notice and an opportunity to opt out of such processing, or, in the case of the processing of sensitive data concerning a known child, without processing such data in accordance with the federal Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, 15 USC Section 6501 et seq.

(3) A controller shall not process personal data in violation of state and federal laws that prohibit unlawful discrimination against a consumer. A controller shall not discriminate against a consumer for exercising any of the consumer rights contained in this act, including denying goods or services, charging different prices or rates for goods or services, or providing a different level of quality of goods and services to

the consumer; however, nothing in this act shall be construed to require a controller to provide a product or service that requires the personal data of a consumer that the controller does not collect or maintain or to prohibit a controller from offering a different price, rate, level, quality, or selection of goods or services to a consumer, including offering goods or services for no fee, if the consumer has exercised the consumer's right to opt out pursuant to Section 4 of this act or the offer is related to a consumer's voluntary participation in a bona fide loyalty, rewards, premium features, discounts, or club card program.

(4) Any provision of a contract or agreement that purports to waive or limit in any way consumer rights pursuant to Section 4 of this act shall be deemed contrary to public policy and shall be void and unenforceable.

(5) A controller shall provide consumers with a reasonably accessible, clear, and meaningful privacy notice that includes the following:

(a) The categories of personal data processed by the controller;

(b) The purpose for processing personal data;

(c) How consumers may exercise their consumer rights pursuant to Section 4 of this act, including how a consumer may appeal a controller's decision with regard to the consumer's request;

(d) The categories of personal data that the controller shares with third parties, if any; and

(e) The categories of third parties, if any, with whom the controller shares personal data.

(6) If a controller sells a consumer's personal data to third parties or engages in targeted advertising, the controller shall clearly and conspicuously disclose such activity, as well as the manner in which a consumer may exercise the right to opt out of such activity.

(7) A controller shall establish, and shall describe in a privacy notice, secure and reliable means for consumers to submit a request to exercise their consumer rights under this act. Such means shall consider the ways in which consumers normally interact with the controller, the need for secure and reliable communication of such requests, and the ability of the controller to authenticate the identity of the consumer making the request. A controller shall not require a consumer to create a new account in order to exercise consumer rights pursuant to Section 4 of this act, but may require a consumer to use an existing account.

SECTION 6. (1) A processor shall assist a controller in duties required under this act, taking into account the nature of processing and the information available to the processor by appropriate technical and organizational measures, insofar as is reasonably practicable, as follows:

(a) To fulfill the controller's obligation to respond to consumer rights requests pursuant to Section 4 of this act; and

(b) To meet the controller's obligations in relation to the security of processing the personal data and in relation to the notification of a security breach of the processor pursuant to Section 75-24-29.

(2) A contract between a controller and a processor shall govern the processor's data processing procedures with respect to processing performed on behalf of the controller. The contract shall clearly set forth instructions for processing personal data, the nature and purpose of processing, the type of data subject to processing, the duration of processing, and the rights and duties of both parties. The contract shall also include requirements that the processor shall do all of the following:

(a) Ensure that each person processing personal data is subject to a duty of confidentiality with respect to the data;

(b) At the controller's direction, delete or return all personal data to the controller as requested at the end of the provision of services, unless retention of the personal data is required by law;

(c) Upon the reasonable request of the controller, make available to the controller all information in the processor's possession necessary to demonstrate the processor's compliance with the obligations in this act; and

(d) Engage any subcontractor or agent pursuant to a written contract in accordance with this section that requires the subcontractor to meet the duties of the processor with respect to the personal data.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to relieve a controller or a processor from imposed liabilities by virtue of the controller or processor's role in the processing relationship as defined by this act.

(4) Determining whether a person is acting as a controller or processor with respect to a specific processing of data is a fact-based determination that depends upon the context in which personal data is to be processed. A processor that continues to adhere to a controller's instructions with respect to a specific processing of personal data remains a processor.

SECTION 7. (1) Nothing in this act shall be construed to require the following:

(a) A controller or processor to re-identify de-identified data or pseudonymous data;

(b) Maintaining data in identifiable form; and

(c) Collecting, obtaining, retaining, or accessing any data or technology in order to be capable of associating an authenticated consumer request with personal data.

(2) Nothing in this act shall be construed to require a controller or processor to comply with an authenticated consumer

rights request, pursuant to Section 4 of this act, if all of the following apply:

(a) The controller is not reasonably capable of associating the request with the personal data or it would be unreasonably burdensome for the controller to associate the request with the personal data;

(b) The controller does not use the personal data to recognize or respond to the specific consumer who is the subject of the personal data, or associate the personal data with other personal data about the same specific consumer; and

(c) The controller does not sell the personal data to any third party or otherwise voluntarily disclose the personal data to any third party other than a processor, except as otherwise permitted in this act.

(3) Consumer rights contained in Sections 4 and 5 of this act shall not apply to pseudonymous data in cases where the controller is able to demonstrate any information necessary to identify the consumer is kept separately and is subject to appropriate technical and organizational measures to ensure that the personal data is not attributed to an identified or identifiable natural person.

(4) Controllers who disclose pseudonymous data or de-identified data shall exercise reasonable oversight to monitor compliance with any contractual commitments to which the pseudonymous data or de-identified data is subject and shall take

appropriate steps to address any breaches of those contractual commitments.

SECTION 8. (1) Nothing in this act shall be construed to restrict a controller's or processor's ability to do the following:

(a) Comply with federal, state, or local laws, rules, or regulations;

(b) Comply with a civil, criminal, or regulatory inquiry, investigation, subpoena, or summons by federal, state, local, or other governmental authorities;

(c) Cooperate with law enforcement agencies concerning conduct or activity that the controller or processor reasonably and in good faith believes may violate federal, state, or local laws, rules, or regulations;

(d) Investigate, establish, exercise, prepare for, or defend legal claims;

(e) Provide a product or service specifically requested by a consumer or parent or guardian of a child, perform a contract to which the consumer or parent or guardian of a child is a party, including fulfilling the terms of a written warranty, or take steps at the request of the consumer or parent or guardian of a child prior to entering into a contract;

(f) Take immediate steps to protect an interest that is essential for the life or physical safety of the consumer or of

another natural person, and where the processing cannot be manifestly based on another legal basis;

(g) Prevent, detect, protect against, or respond to security incidents, identity theft, fraud, harassment, malicious or deceptive activities, or any illegal activity;

(h) Preserve the integrity or security of systems;

(i) Investigate, report, or prosecute those responsible for any such action; and

(j) Engage in public or peer-reviewed scientific or statistical research in the public interest that adheres to all other applicable ethics and privacy laws and is approved, monitored, and governed by an institutional review board, or similar independent oversight entities that determine the following:

(i) If the deletion of the information is likely to provide substantial benefits that do not exclusively accrue to the controller;

(ii) The expected benefits of the research outweigh the privacy risks; and

(iii) If the controller has implemented reasonable safeguards to mitigate privacy risks associated with research, including any risks associated with re-identification.

(k) Assist another controller, processor, or third party with any of the obligations under this subsection.

(2) The obligations imposed on a controller or processor under this act shall not restrict a controller's or processor's ability to collect, use, or retain data as follows:

(a) To conduct internal research to develop, improve, or repair products, services, or technology;

(b) To effectuate a product recall;

(c) To identify and repair technical errors that impair existing or intended functionality; and

(d) To perform internal operations that are reasonably aligned with the expectations of the consumer or reasonably anticipated based on the consumer's existing relationship with the controller or are otherwise compatible with processing data in furtherance of the provision of a product or service specifically requested by a consumer or parent or guardian of a child or the performance of a contract to which the consumer or parent or guardian of a child is a party.

(3) The obligations imposed on controllers or processors under this act shall not apply where compliance by the controller or processor with this act would violate an evidentiary privilege under the laws of the state. Nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent a controller or processor from providing personal data concerning a consumer to a person covered by an evidentiary privilege under the laws of the state as part of a privileged communication.

(4) A controller or processor who discloses personal data to a third-party controller or processor, in compliance with the requirements of this act, is not in violation of this act if the third-party controller or processor who receives and processes such personal data is in violation of this act, provided that, at the time of disclosing the personal data, the disclosing controller or processor did not have actual knowledge that the recipient intended to commit a violation. A third-party controller or processor receiving personal data from a controller or processor in compliance with the requirements of this act is likewise not in violation of this act for the offenses of the controller or processor from which it receives such personal data.

(5) Nothing in this act shall be construed as an obligation imposed on a controller or a processor that adversely affects the privacy or other rights or freedoms of any persons, such as exercising the right of free speech pursuant to the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, or applies to personal data by a person in the course of a purely personal or household activity.

(6) Personal data processed by a controller pursuant to this section shall not be processed for any purpose other than those expressly listed in this section unless otherwise allowed by this act. Personal data processed by a controller pursuant to this section may be processed to the extent that such processing is as follows:

(a) Reasonably necessary and proportionate to the purposes listed in this section;

(b) Adequate, relevant, and limited to what is necessary in relation to the specific purposes listed in this section. Personal data collected, used, or retained pursuant to this section shall, where applicable, take into account the nature and purpose or purposes of such collection, use, or retention. Such data shall be subject to reasonable administrative, technical, and physical measures to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and accessibility of the personal data.

(7) If a controller processes personal data pursuant to an exemption in this section, the controller bears the burden of demonstrating that such processing qualifies for the exemption and complies with the requirements in subsection (6) of this section.

(8) Processing personal data for the purposes expressly identified in subsection (1) of this section shall not in and of itself make an entity a controller with respect to such processing.

(9) This act shall not require a controller, processor, third party, or consumer to disclose trade secrets.

SECTION 9. (1) The Attorney General shall have exclusive authority to enforce this act. Whenever the Attorney General has reasonable cause to believe that any person has engaged in, is engaging in, or is about to engage in any violation of this act, the Attorney General is empowered to issue a civil investigative

demand. The provisions of Section 75-24-355 shall apply to civil investigative demands issued under this act.

(2) Prior to initiating any action under this act, the Attorney General shall provide a controller or processor ninety (90) days' written notice identifying the specific provisions of this act that the Attorney General alleges have been or are being violated. If within the ninety-day period, the controller or processor cures the noticed violation and provides the Attorney General an express written statement that the alleged violations have been cured and that no further such violations shall occur, no action shall be initiated against the controller or processor.

(3) If a controller or processor continues to violate this act following the cure period in subsection (2) of this section or breaches an express written statement provided to the Attorney General under that subsection, the Attorney General may initiate an action in the name of the state and may seek an injunction to restrain any violations of this act and civil penalties of up to Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($7,500.00) for each violation under this act.

(4) Nothing in this act shall be construed as providing the basis for, or be subject to, a private right of action for violations of this act or under any other law.

SECTION 10. (1) This act supersedes and preempts all rules, regulations, codes, ordinances, and other laws adopted by a city,

county, municipality, or local agency regarding the processing of personal data by controllers or processors.

(2) Any reference to federal, state, or local law or statute in this act shall be deemed to include any accompanying rules or regulations or exemptions thereto, or in the case of a federal agency, guidance issued by such agency thereto.

SECTION 11. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.