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SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1149

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

**By** House Financial Institutions & Insurance (originally sponsored by Representatives Williams, Roach, Simpson, Kirby, Dunshee, Nelson, and Ormsby)

READ FIRST TIME 01/21/10.

1 AN ACT Relating to protecting consumers from breaches of security;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 19.255 RCW; creating new sections; and  
3 providing an effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that data  
6 breaches contribute to identity theft and fraud and can be costly to  
7 consumers. The legislature also recognizes that when a breach occurs,  
8 remedial measures such as reissuance of credit or debit cards affected  
9 by the breach can help to reduce the incidence of identity theft and  
10 associated costs to consumers. Accordingly, the legislature intends to  
11 encourage financial institutions to reissue credit and debit cards to  
12 consumers when appropriate, and to permit financial institutions to  
13 recoup data breach costs associated with the reissuance from large  
14 merchants or processors who are negligent in maintaining or  
15 transmitting card data.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 19.255 RCW  
17 to read as follows:

18 (1) For purposes of this section:

1 (a) "Access device" has the same meaning as in RCW 9A.56.010.

2 (b) "Account information" means: (i) The full, unencrypted  
3 magnetic stripe of a credit or debit card; (ii) the full, unencrypted  
4 account information contained on an identification device as defined  
5 under RCW 19.300.010; or (iii) the unencrypted primary account number  
6 on a credit or debit card or identification device, plus any of the  
7 following: Cardholder name, expiration date, or service code.

8 (c) "Breach" has the same meaning as "breach of the security of the  
9 system" in RCW 19.255.010.

10 (d) "Merchant" means an individual, partnership, corporation,  
11 association, organization, government entity, or any other legal or  
12 commercial entity that processes more than six million access device  
13 transactions annually, and who offers or sells goods or services to  
14 persons who are residents of Washington.

15 (e) "Processor" means an individual, partnership, corporation,  
16 association, organization, government entity, or any other legal or  
17 commercial entity, other than a merchant, that directly processes or  
18 transmits account information for or on behalf of another person as  
19 part of a payment processing service.

20 (f) "Service code" means the three or four digit number in the  
21 magnetic stripe or on a credit or debit card that is used to specify  
22 acceptance requirements or to validate the card.

23 (g) "Vendor" means an individual, partnership, corporation,  
24 association, organization, government entity, or any other legal or  
25 commercial entity that manufactures and sells software or equipment  
26 that is designed to process, transmit, or store account information  
27 using encryption.

28 (2) Processors, merchants, or vendors are not liable under this  
29 section if (a) the breached account information was encrypted, and (b)  
30 the processor, merchant, or vendor was certified compliant with  
31 applicable information security standards promulgated or adopted by any  
32 payment system network through which transactions are conducted.

33 (3)(a) If a processor or merchant fails to take reasonable care  
34 through the use of an industry standard level of encryption to guard  
35 against unauthorized access to account information that is in the  
36 possession or under the control of the merchant or processor, and the  
37 failure is found to be the proximate cause of a breach, the processor  
38 or merchant is liable to a financial institution, as defined in RCW

1 30.22.040, for reimbursement of reasonable actual costs incurred by the  
2 financial institution to mitigate potential current or future damages  
3 to its access device account holders as a consequence of the breach,  
4 even if the financial institution has not suffered a physical injury in  
5 connection with the breach. In any legal action brought pursuant to  
6 this subsection, the prevailing party is entitled to recover its  
7 reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in connection with the  
8 legal action.

9 (b) A vendor is liable to a financial institution instead of a  
10 processor or merchant for the damages described in (a) of this  
11 subsection to the extent that the damages are attributable to a defect  
12 in the vendor's software or equipment related to the encryption of  
13 account information.

14 (4) Nothing may prevent any entity responsible for handling account  
15 information on behalf of a merchant or processor from being made a  
16 party to an action under this section.

17 (5) Nothing in this section may be construed as preventing or  
18 foreclosing a processor, merchant, or vendor from asserting any defense  
19 otherwise available to a negligence action including, but not limited  
20 to, defenses of contributory or comparative negligence.

21 (6) In cases to which this section applies, the trier of fact shall  
22 determine the percentage of the total fault which is attributable to  
23 every entity which caused the claimant's damages.

24 (7) The remedies under this section are cumulative and do not  
25 restrict any other right or remedy otherwise available to the financial  
26 institution.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect July 1, 2010.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act applies prospectively only. This  
29 act applies to any breach occurring on or after the effective date of  
30 this section.

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